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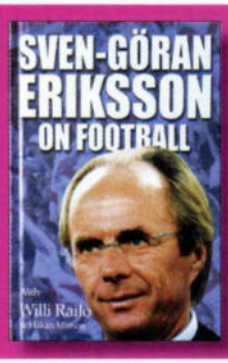

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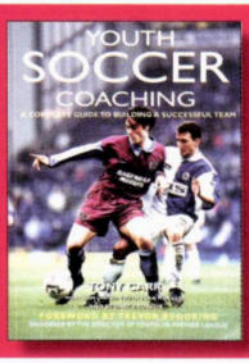

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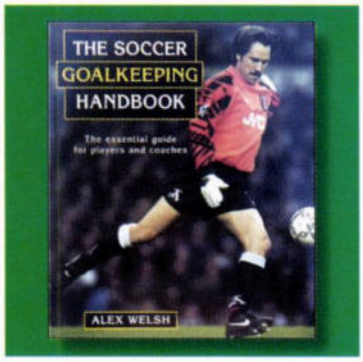

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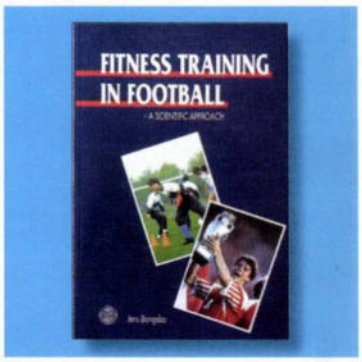

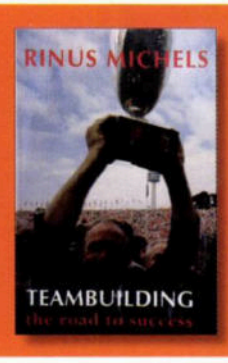

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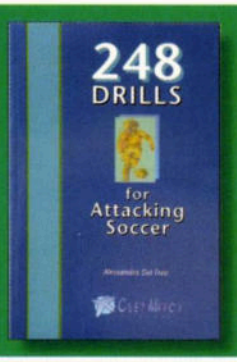

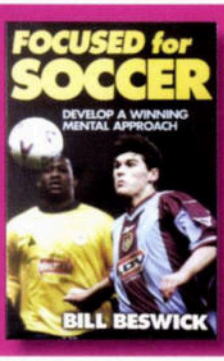

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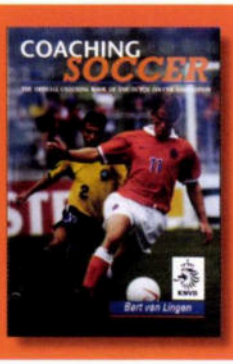

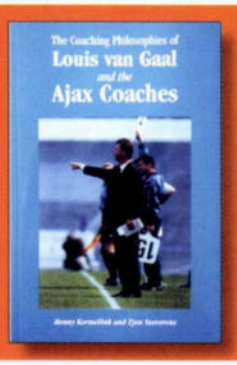

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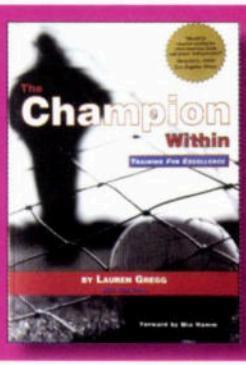

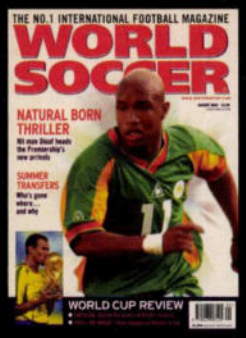

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August 2002

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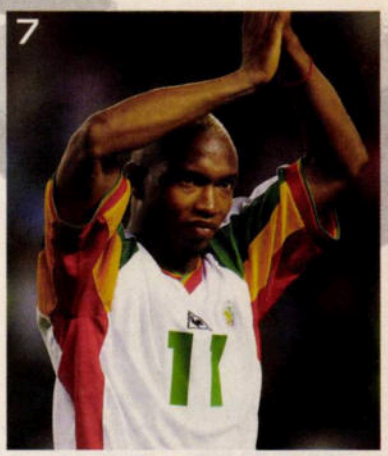

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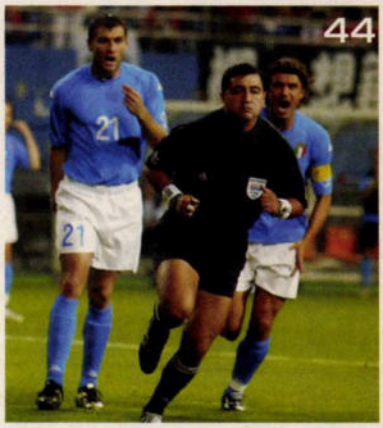

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'LAST OF THE big spenders' was a headline previously used in *World Soccer* in the summer of 1996 when we predicted – wrongly, as it turned out – that the newly introduced Bosman ruling would make transfer fees a thing of the past. Instead, we saw a world-record fee being set every summer for six years. Until now. We've used the headline again this month (page 4) and with hindsight, it seems far more appropriate.

The danger of football jumping into bed with business and commercial interests was always apparent – as we have consistently pointed out in these pages. And this summer, with the quietest transfer market on record, clubs are experiencing the flip side to football's boom.

Ultimately, clubs will come through their current problems only when players reduce their wage demands. The offer by Ronaldo, Christian Vieri and Alvaro Recoba to take a 10 per cent pay cut at Inter was a public relations stunt after their huge salaries became public knowledge. But at least it has forced people to think the unthinkable. Football's recession has even forced a rethink from UEFA on the size and structure of the Champions League.

At least next month we can get back to talking about football. We are re-introducing the letters page, and I welcome your views and opinions.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com)

Last of the big spenders

Gavin Hamilton reports on how clubs are coping with football's recession

TWELVE months ago, the global transfer market, fuelled by a buoyant pay-TV market, peaked with Real Madrid's £47million capture of Zinedine Zidane from Juventus.

Heady days. The Bosman ruling in December 1995 had widened players' horizons. Income from pay-TV companies keen to shift subscriptions had swelled club bank accounts. The result was hyper-inflationary spending by clubs and the world transfer record being broken for six years running.

But that time is over. Finished. Kaput. Football's financial bubble has burst, and the repercussions are being felt right across Europe. Just as TV stations have resorted to reality TV shows to boost flagging ratings, so football clubs must now deal with the reality that TV will not fund further extravagant transfer signings.

Loan deals, player swaps, third-party finance and wage cuts are now the order of the day.

"There have been fewer big signings this summer than ever before," says Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger. "I put that down to the disastrous financial situation for football throughout Europe."

By mid-July, the world's two richest clubs, Manchester United and Real Madrid, had spent less than £1m between them.

"It's been the quietest transfer market that I can remember," says United manager Alex Ferguson. In previous years, his club's pursuit of Rio Ferdinand, for a fee upwards of £30m, would have set the ball rolling. But not this year.

If, as seemed likely as we went to press, the deal goes through, Leeds will use the Ferdinand cash to help clear their heavy debts. In previous years, the money would have resurfaced elsewhere in the transfer market.

Spanish and Italian clubs have traditionally sparked the summer spending spree. But by mid-July in Spain, just £41m had been spent on 61 transfers. At the corresponding stage in 2001, Spanish clubs had spent £142m on 59 deals.

Remarkably, Manchester City, newly promoted to the Premiership, have spent more money than the leading clubs in Milan and Madrid combined. Middlesbrough's £8m signing of Massimo Maccarone from Empoli has been the largest fee received by an Italian club this summer. By contrast, there were nine deals in excess of £20m last summer, headed by Zidane's move to Madrid.

'Sell before you buy' has been the mantra of clubs across the continent. "Everybody has suddenly become a bit wiser," says Wenger.

Many clubs are desperate to clear their huge wage bills. "Signing players is not the priority," says Real Madrid's director of football, Jorge Valdano.

Players who a year ago commanded huge transfer fees are finding themselves frozen out as clubs downsize. Juventus, who spent £80m on new players last summer, baulked at the wage demands of Parma's Italian international defender Fabio Cannavaro. Middlesbrough have refused to play ball with their former favourite

The new reality – how clubs are downsizing

Loan deals
Italian clubs have long sent young players out on season-long loans. Now they are loaning out big-name, big-contract stars. Milan have loaned Demetrio Albertini and Jose Mari to Atletico Madrid, while across town Inter have sent Umit Davala to Galatasaray, having just acquired him from Milan.

Swaps
Very little cash is changing hands as clubs exchange players. In Milan, Umit and Francesco Coco, back from a season-long loan at Barcelona, moved to Inter, with Clarence Seedorf and Dario Simic heading the other way to Milan. Parma and Inter have exchanged Matias Almeyda and Vratislav Gresko, while Roma and Parma exchanged Sebastiano Siviglia and Luigi Sartor.

Youth system
More and more clubs are turning to their youth sections to deliver new players. Even Real Madrid see it as a crucial element of their strategy. "I'll always gamble on youth," says president Florentino Perez. "There are great players there and they are Real Madrid through and through. That's important in ensuring the club keeps its identity."

Mortgaging players
Clubs, particularly in England, are using their biggest assets, the players, to secure third-party finance to pay for transfer fees. Companies such as Registered European Football Finance offer to pay the transfer fee to the selling club and then receive payment in instalments from the buying club over the length of the player's contract. Effectively, clubs are mortgaging their players while they are under contract.

Wage cuts
The clubs have found an unusual ally in the battle against extortionate player wages: the players themselves. Ronaldo, Christian Vieri and Alvaro Recoba have agreed to take a 10 per cent salary cut at Inter. As Recoba put it: "If a club can't pay the players, then we need to be honest and accept a cut, for the good of everyone."

Performance-related pay
Italian players' union leader Sergio Campana is advocating that players sign contracts that reduce their pay by 20 per cent in the event of relegation.

The summer's top deals

Nicolas Anelka	Paris SG	Man City	£13m
El Hadji Diouf	Lens	Liverpool	£10m
Hugo Viana	Sporting Lisbon	Newcastle	£8.5m
Massimo Maccarone	Empoli	Middlesbrough	£8m
Roberto Acuna	Zaragoza	Deportivo	£7m
Juan Roman Riquelme	Boca Juniors	Barcelona	£6.6m
Juan Pablo Sorin	Cruzeiro	Lazio	£6.6m
Mikel Arteta	Barcelona	Rangers	£5.8m
Joseph Yobo	Marseille	Everton	£5m
Titus Bramble	Ipswich	Newcastle	£4.5m
Aliou Cisse	Montpellier	Birmingham	£4.5m
Marcos Assuncao	Roma	Real Betis	£4.5m

That was then...Zidane's move to Real Madrid brought Juventus £47m

Juninho because of his personal demands.

Twelve months ago, Gaizka Mendieta became the most expensive Spanish player in history when he joined Lazio for £28m. Now Lazio are desperate to get him off their payroll. Chelsea expressed interest, but could not afford to take on his £3.5m annual salary.

"Players are on amazing salaries and the clubs cannot fund it any more," says Newcastle manager Bobby Robson. "We could have signed Rivaldo from Barcelona, but his wages were way above our budget."

Newcastle are one of the few clubs who have spent money this summer. But by spending money they expect to earn from the Champions League – assuming they get through the qualifying round – they are going down the path taken by Leeds and Chelsea in recent seasons.

Other clubs are in much greater trouble. "I have been offered players who have not been paid for six or seven months," says Wenger. "When clubs find themselves in that position, you know there is a deep problem.

So what has caused the crisis? First and foremost, the collapse of the pay-TV market. Pay-per-view has not raised the sums of money that many clubs had hoped for, and indeed budgeted for. Clubs who spent heavily in search of success are now faced with a shortfall after failing to live up to their own expectations.

In England, the collapse of ITV Digital has had an additional deflationary effect on the transfer market. The smaller clubs in the Football League, who have been hit hardest by ITV Digital's demise, have always relied on selling players for economic survival. But Premiership clubs are waiting to see if they can force down prices.

Nor has the World Cup helped matters. The tournament in Korea and Japan did not produce many stars; and many deals were done before the tournament kicked off.

"Our policy is to bring in more genuine stars," says Real Madrid president Florentino Perez, "and there aren't many about."

The new transfer system created by FIFA and the European Commission is also holding clubs back. Clubs do not know what to expect from changes that mean shorter contracts for players who will then not command a transfer fee.

"If you spend £15m on a player today he could be worth next to nothing on the market next year," says Wenger. "How can you invest money and not budget to get anything back next year?"

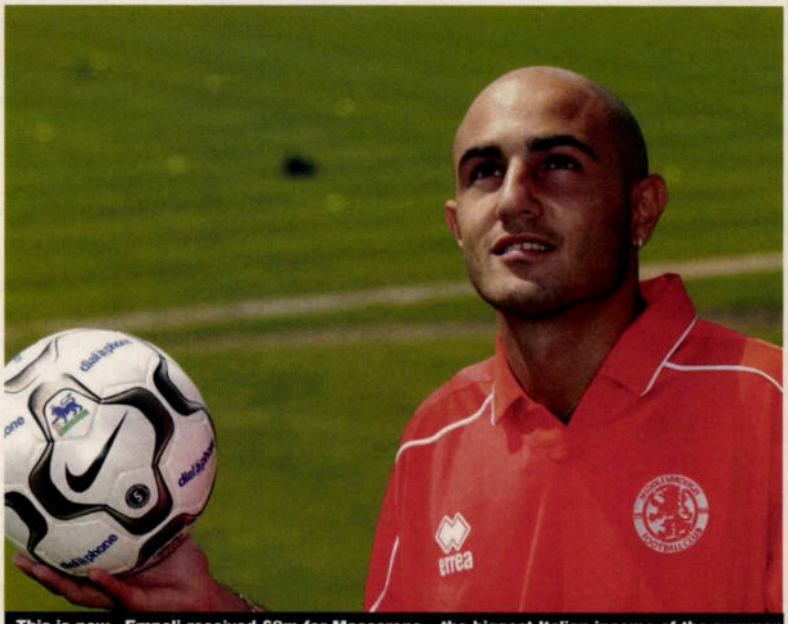
Finally, changes to the UEFA Champions League from 2003 have surprised and angered the big clubs, and forced them to add another element of caution into their financial planning.

"A club makes a substantial long-term commitment when it signs a player," says Liverpool chief executive Rick Parry. "You don't expect to find out that the Champions League revenue is suddenly changing."

Liverpool have spent more than most clubs. Most have been forced to adopt more creative means to acquire new players. A harsh new reality is sweeping across European football.

● *Continued overleaf.*

'Clubs who spent heavily in search of success are now faced with a shortfall after failing to live up to their own expectations'


This is now...Empoli received £8m for Maccarone – the biggest Italian income of the summer

Last of the big spenders (continued)

In demand...England defender Rio Ferdinand

ENGLAND: United in caution

ONLY Manchester United have the financial power to rescue the English transfer market. The club made a £31million profit last year and have £40m to spend this summer.

They have been linked with England defender Rio Ferdinand (Leeds, £30m), the Republic of Ireland's Damien Duff (Blackburn, £17m), France's Lilian Thuram (Juventus, £12m) and Italy's Fabio Cannavaro (Parma, £11m).

But even the richest football club in the world does not have enough money to stop the transfer market collapsing like the stock market. This is the quietest summer transfer market on record. The 20 clubs in the Premiership have spent only £91m so far.

Promoted Manchester City have been the biggest spenders. Manager Kevin Keegan has paid £15m for two Frenchmen in striker Nicolas Anelka and defender Sylvain Distin.

Liverpool have been almost as prolific, bringing in El Hadji Diouf and his Senegal team-mate Salif Diao, as well as Alou Diarra from Bayern Munich and Bruno Cheyrou from Lille.

Newcastle have been preparing for their Champions League campaign with the purchase of Portuguese wonderkid Hugo Viana and young Ipswich centre-back Titus Bramble.

Middlesbrough have been the other main spenders, enticing Italian Under-21 striker Massimo Maccarone away from Serie A.

But other clubs have not followed suit.

New Leeds manager Terry Venables was forced to wait for news of the possible sales of Rio Ferdinand to Man United, Lee Bowyer (Liverpool) and Olivier Dacourt (Juventus) before venturing into the marketplace.

Arsenal's transfer activity has been limited to defender Pascal Cygan, for £2.1m from Lille, while Chelsea coach Claudio Ranieri is another under pressure to sell before he can buy. Deals to sign Geremi and Sergio Conceicao from Real Madrid collapsed because of Chelsea's fragile financial situation.

"The directors want me to work with the young players," said Ranieri. "They do not want to keep spending money. We have reduced our costs and we must reduce the number of players in our squad. It is the same for everyone. This is the future."

One of the few new boys...Riquelme

SPAIN: Real play safe

AT press time, European champions Real Madrid, despite clearing their colossal debts through the sale of their Ciudad Deportivo training ground, had yet to spend a single euro on new players.

"I'm not saying that there won't be signings," said president Florentino Perez. "We're in July and there's still time before September. But we're not going to change the philosophy of the club."

Instead, Esteban Cambiasso and Fernando have been recalled from loan spells, while Javier Portillo, Raul Bravo and Oscar Minambres have been promoted from the youth and reserve ranks.

Madrid's priority is to reduce the wage bill by attempting to sell seven players – believed to be Flavio Conceicao, Geremi, Albert Celades, Edwin Congo, Ivan Campo, Savio and Pedro Munitis. Steve McManaman, whose contract expires next summer, is not officially on the transfer list because he wants to stay in Madrid, but the club would privately welcome his sale.

"At the moment, we've got 32 players in the squad and we can register only 25," says sports director Jorge Valdano. "If we can't find exits for seven players, they'll be unable to play."

The policy of president Perez has been to emulate his illustrious predecessor Santiago Bernabeu, who signed a star every season in the late 1950s. But Perez has so far insisted that nobody decent has become available. "The stars are already at Real Madrid," Perez said, while rubbishing reports that he was about to sign Ronaldo.

In fact, the biggest spenders have been across town at newly promoted Atletico. They have brought Jose Mari and Javi Moreno back from Italy, while Italian international Demetrio Albertini has arrived on loan, also from Milan. Atletico also made a big internal signing, bringing in former Middlesbrough midfielder Emerson from Deportivo, who replaced the Brazilian with Paraguay's Roberto Acuna.

Barcelona completed the protracted transfer of Juan Roman Riquelme from Boca Juniors. The two clubs had been in discussions for over a year, but it remains to be seen whether he will fit in with the plans of new coach Louis Van Gaal.

ITALY: Counting the cost

BY the end of the first week of July 2001, the Italian transfer market had turned over more than £200m.

This year, the largest transfer fee received by an Italian club so far has been the £8.15m paid by Middlesbrough to Empoli for Massimo Maccarone. That an English club were able to secure such a hot property as the Under-21 international illustrates the depth of the crisis.

Most of the larger clubs have serious levels of debts after years of free spending against the promise of ever-increasing television revenues that now appear in danger of drying up.

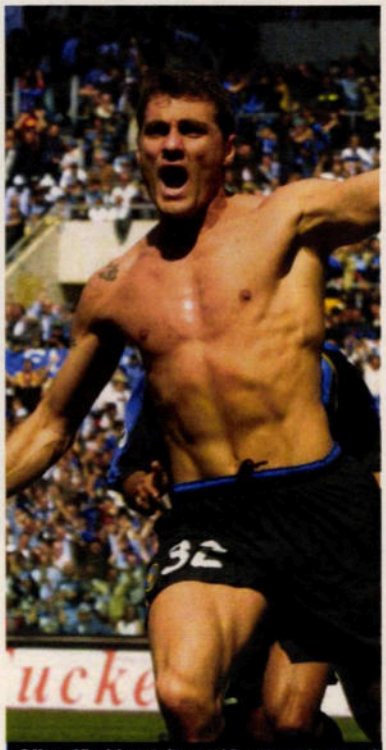
A report by financial newspaper *Il Sole 24 Ore* claimed that Serie A clubs made a combined operating loss of £440m in the 2000-01 season. Spending on player wages has doubled in the past four years, and wages have reached frightening levels.

The *Il Sole* survey reported that Parma spent 10 per cent more than their overall turnover on player wages, while Inter and Lazio were not much better, spending 80 per cent of turnover on wages.

Although there was over £200m spent on transfers in Italy last summer, a lot of that figure was recouped by sales. For example, Juventus may have spent over £80m but they raised £64m by selling Filippo Inzaghi to Milan and Zinedine Zidane to Madrid.

The summer transfer round gives clubs the chance to reorganise their finances. The absence of this opportunity this year is causing so much concern that the new season could be delayed. Roma president Franco Sensi said: "I don't think it is possible to sort everything for September. The championship could be postponed for a month." The big clubs have all spent the summer tying up loan and swap deals rather than negotiating big-money transfer fees. Inter were helped by the offer of Christian Vieri and co to take a 10 per cent pay cut.

Lazio are desperate to get a quintet of high-earners – Alessandro Nesta, Gaizka Mendieta, Claudio Lopez, Hernan Crespo


Offer...Vieri has taken a 10 per cent pay cut

and Jaap Stam – off their payroll. But so far nobody has come forward.

Many of the transfers that were thought certain have not happened. At the time of writing, Nesta is still at Lazio after a deal to take him to Inter fell through. Roma have been unable to prize Edgar Davids away from Juventus, who in turn have refused to meet the wage demands of Parma's Fabio Cannavaro.

"Cannavaro's transfer isn't compatible with our budget," said Juventus general manager Luciano Moggi.

In other words, we're skint.

Lions ready to roar in Premiership

"AS SOON as I saw his performance against France we confirmed that we would go ahead with the deal." Birmingham City coach Steve Bruce's remarks on signing Senegal captain Aliou Cisse show just what it took to get most of Europe interested in signing the Senegalese, who are on their way to becoming some of the hottest properties in a quiet summer transfer market.

Exciting talent...Diouf

Cisse's £4.5million deal joined up with Liverpool's acquisition of Salif Diao and El Hadji Diouf to form a Senegalese threesome heading over the Channel from France.

Of the three, it is Diouf who has attracted the most attention. The platinum blond striker was a revelation at the World Cup, getting into the FIFA team of the tournament with performances that contained everything you might want from an attacker – except a goal.

All the same, Diouf's technical ability and winner's spirit clearly made as big an impression on the FIFA observers as they had on Gerard Houllier. The Liverpool boss had entered into negotiations before the World Cup out of concern that Diouf's performances would put his price up, then all but concluded the deal in Korea before confirming it after the Lions' quarter-final exit.

"I have come to Liverpool to win trophies," said Diouf in a statement echoed by Diao, who will join him at Anfield in six months' time. Of the two, Diao will surely adapt the easier: the giant midfielder already speaks superb English and possesses none of the hothead nature that occasionally lets Diouf down.

All the same, Diouf has talent in abundance – as befitting the current African Player of the Year and a man nicknamed Serial Killer because of his sharp goalscoring instincts. It would be no surprise if he rapidly justifies the reported £10m fee he cost Houllier.

What is surprising is that – as we went to press, and Cisse apart – no further Lions transfers had materialised, despite their stirring performances in the World Cup window of opportunity.

It is certainly not through a lack of appreciation of the Senegalese merchandise: Pape Bouba Diop, for example, is highly regarded throughout Europe, with the likes of Fulham and Manchester United taking long hard looks at the prodigy. That more Senegal players have not moved can be explained by the current financial crisis afflicting mainland Europe, which explains as well why the Premiership seems to be a privileged destination for these new-born stars.

But with right-back Ferdinand Coly, midfielder Diop and wingers Henri Camara and Khalilou Fadiga all under intense English surveillance, it will surely not be long before more of the Lions are heading off to greener pastures.

James Copnall

The month in pictures

● 31/05/02...The 2002 World Cup finals kick off with pomp and ceremony in the new Seoul stadium

● 05/06/02...John O'Brien scores against Portugal as the USA record one of the shocks of the tournament

● 07/06/02...England come out on top against Argentina in Sapporo

● 16/06/02...Spain reach the quarter-finals after beating Ireland in a penalty shoot-out

March of the coaches

It's all change for World Cup managers

LESS than a third of the coaches who took charge of teams at the World Cup finals in Korea/Japan will still be in charge at the start of the new season.

Roger Lemerre and Antonio Oliveira, two of the most high-profile failures with France and Portugal respectively, were sacked.

Others, more sensibly, had agreed contracts that expired at the end of the tournament.

Some hope to return to their posts at some point in the future. Bruno Metsu, who oversaw Senegal's Opening Match victory over France and took the West African side to the quarter-finals in their first World Cup, has embarked on what he hopes will be a highly lucrative sabbatical, coaching Al Ain in the United Arab Emirates for 10 months.

Metsu then wants to return to Senegal, but El Hadj Malik Sy, president of Senegal's federation, is dismissive of Metsu's hopes, saying: "There is no leave in the world of football. We will work on finding a replacement."

Lemerre was sacked after refusing to quit as France coach. A replacement, from a shortlist of four, was due to be announced while *World Soccer* was at the printers. The list was headed by Philippe Troussier, coach of Japan at the World Cup, former Lyon coach Jacques Santini, Under-21 coach Raymond Domenech and another member of Lemerre's backroom staff, Rene Girard.

Here's the full list of World Cup coaches, and their fates.

ARGENTINA
MARCELO BIELSA
Contract expired June 30, 2002; no successor named as yet but Jose Pekerman the favourite.

BELGIUM
ROBERT WASEIGE
Contract ran until end of World Cup, now back at Standard Liege; replaced by Aime Anthuenis.

BRAZIL
LUIZ FELIPE SCOLARI
Reported to be undecided on his future despite Brazil's victory. Will announce decision at end of July.

CAMEROON
WINFRIED SCHAFER
Still under contract but reported to be seeking other jobs.

CHINA
BORA MILUTINOVIC
Quit after China's first-round exit; FA considering hiring local coach.

COSTA RICA
ALEXANDRE GUIMARAES
Still under contract but federation may seek new blood.

CROATIA
MIRKO JOZIC
Announced resignation before tournament, reportedly to take charge of Chile's Colo Colo; replaced by Otto Baric, latterly coach of Austria.

Moving on...Senegal coach Bruno Metsu

DENMARK
MORTEN OLSEN
Still under contract and set to continue until Euro 2004.

ECUADOR
HERNAN DARIO GOMEZ
Stepped down after finals; has since declined a return as Colombia coach.

ENGLAND
SVEN GORAN ERIKSSON
Contracted until 2006.

FRANCE
ROGER LEMERRE
Contract terminated; federation poised to name successor from four-man shortlist.

GERMANY
RUDI VOLLER
Still under contract.

ITALY
GIOVANNI TRAPATTONI
Contracted until 2004.

JAPAN
PHILIPPE TROUSSIER
Contract ran until end of finals; Zico appointed as successor.

MEXICO
JAVIER AGUIRRE
Left at end of finals to take charge of Spanish club Osasuna.

NIGERIA
ADEGBOYE ONIGBINDE
Appointed technical director; FA looking to hire foreign coach.

PARAGUAY
CESARE MALDINI
Contract ran until end of finals; replaced by Anibal 'Mano' Ruiz.

/06/02...Ahn Jung-hwan is mobbed by team-mates scoring Korea's golden goal against Italy

● 21/06/02...Michael Ballack heads past Brad Friedel to score the only goal of Germany's quarter-final against the United States

● 30/06/02...Ronaldo, Brazil's two-goal hero in the Yokohama Final against Germany, lifts the World Cup

POLAND
JERZY ENGEL
Sacked by federation; replaced by Zbigniew Boniek.

PORTUGAL
ANTONIO OLIVEIRA
Contract terminated.

REP IRELAND
MICK McCARTHY
Contracted until 2004.

RUSSIA
OLEG ROMANTSEV
Resigned upon return home; replaced by Valeri Gazzayev.

SAUDI ARABIA
NASSER AL-JOHAR
Sacked by Saudi federation.

SENEGAL
BRUNO METSU
Quit to join Al Ain in UAE, but wants to return to Senegal job in 2003.

SLOVENIA
SRECKO KATANEC
Quit; replaced by Bojan Prasnikar.

SOUTH AFRICA
JOMO SONO
Persuaded to stay on until end of Cosafa Castle Cup in September.

SOUTH KOREA
GUUS HIDDINK
Contract ran until end of finals; now at PSV. No replacement announced.

Staying on...South Africa's Jomo Sono

SPAIN
JOSE ANTONIO CAMACHO
Resigned upon return home; replaced by Inaki Saez.

SWEDEN
TOMMY SODERBERG & LARS LAGERBACK
Still under contract.

TUNISIA
AMMAR SOUAYEH
Still under contract.

TURKEY
SENOL GUNES
Still under contract.

UNITED STATES
BRUCE ARENA
Offered contract extension.

URUGUAY
VICTOR PUA
Quit.

Notes & quotes

"Oliver Kahn is regarded as a superman, while the rest of the keepers in the Bundesliga are sausages."
Schalke keeper Frank Rost has a meaty gripe with his Bayern counterpart.

Superman...Kahn

"It's ridiculous. His performances were nothing outstanding."
Brazil keeper Marcos on hearing Oliver Kahn had been voted Player of the World Cup.

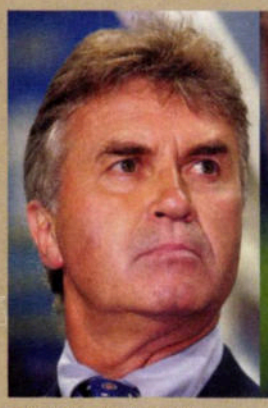
"The Golden Generation is not finished. We cannot throw everything away because of one bad match against the USA."
Off-colour midfielder Rui Costa insists the Portuguese old guard still have some life in them.

Still positive...Rui Costa

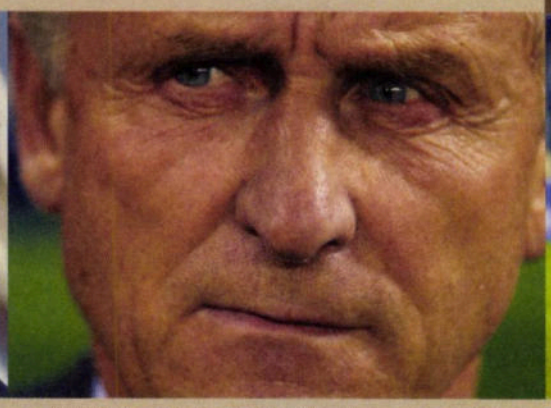
"It's as if a baker stopped for speeding is then prevented from baking bread."
Ajaccio coach Rolland Courbis after being suspended by the French League while he faces criminal charges for allegedly receiving kick-backs from transfer deals during his time at Marseille.

"Wilmots has put in my mouth something I never said."
Jamaican referee Peter Prendergast denies that he apologised to Belgium skipper Marc Wilmots for mistakenly disallowing his goal against Brazil at the World Cup.

The month in pictures



● 01/07/02...Guus Hiddink is confirmed as the new coach of PSV



● 04/07/02...Giovanni Trapattoni insists he will stay on as coach of Italy despite their second-round defeat by Korea in the World Cup

● 05/07/02...Juventus insist that midfielder Edgar Davids is not moving to Roma

● 08/07/02...Terry Venables is unveiled as the new manager of Leeds United

Paul Gardner
GLOBAL VIEW

Count me out of the new world order

YOU do realise, I trust, that we came within a couple of goals of having a Turkey v South Korea World Cup Final. And if it had been Turkey-Korea, would that have been an occasion for wild celebration, or should we have simply slunk off and shot ourselves? The question needs pondering, because the answer will tell us a lot about where football is right now, and where it is heading.

Me, I'm of the suicidal tendency. I didn't find what went on at the World Cup intriguing; I found it alarming. Doubly so, because aberrational results were widely treated as though they were praiseworthy and as though they provided reliable indicators for the future of the sport.

Sure it was fun to see the little guys doing well, but whether those upsets have any deeper meaning than mere fun, that is the question. Here's one view on what the Koreans and the Japanese achieved by advancing out of the first round: "These two countries...have foretold an approaching change in the global balance of soccer power that parallels the transformation in the global balance of political power since the end of World War II." That's Dr Henry Kissinger's opinion, a man who deals in the portentous.

I'll pose another way of seeing things – Korea and Japan did nothing more than continue a World Cup tradition: that the host country *always* qualifies for the second round. On arrival at the knockout stage, the Japanese failed immediately; the Koreans got lucky and, with the help of refereeing blunders, swept into the semis.

Neither team offered us anything new in football terms. Both had European coaches, so European values prevailed. Certainly, the players' technique was excellent, but it was fitness, organisation and speed of play that predominated.

'Argentina, Portugal and France went home early not because they were beaten by brilliant opponents but because they failed to play to their expected level'

The South Koreans reminded me of nothing so much as the North Koreans in 1966, a team shrouded in oriental mystery that played non-stop attacking soccer, ran the Italians into the ground, then romped to a 3-0 lead over Portugal before Eusebio called a halt to their antics.

It was exciting then, as it was exciting a few weeks ago – but it did not then, and it does not now, presage an Asian takeover in the football hierarchy.

Maybe it means, as many proclaim, that things are levelling out. Possibly it does mean that – which would be good news if it indicated a levelling up. But it takes a drunkenly optimistic view of the World Cup to support that argument.

Any levelling off was in the opposite direction. Argentina, Portugal and France went home early not because they were beaten by brilliant opponents but because they failed to play to their expected level.

Some approximation of sanity was restored when Brazil and Germany clawed their way to the Final, but no one was arguing they were great teams. The feeling was that two average sides had both had an easier-than-usual passage to the Final.

So these two middling teams then gave us one of the best Finals we've seen in ages. That's football for you, the most perverse of activities, and it forces the realisation that in such an atmosphere, the irrational is to be expected.

Maybe, then, the 'aberrational results' that I found so worrying were inevitable? I don't know about inevitable, but they were surely invited. Their true significance is as a measure of the extent to which football has been lowering its standards.

The phenomenon is not unknown in educational circles. When exam results are universally poor, the easiest way to improve them is to lower the pass mark rather than increase the general education level. Football has been allowing its pass mark to slide for decades by allowing the easier, defensive, part of the game to dominate the more complicated creative side. The chickens bred by this shortsighted policy came home to roost in World Cup 2002, a mediocre tournament in which the goals-per-game average was the second lowest ever in the finals, and in which – such was the general opinion – Germany were able to reach the Final largely on the strength of their goalkeeper.

That last point is worth a lot of thought. Do we want a sport in which one defensive player – and the one man who is not really a footballer at all – can have such an influence on the result?

In the modern game, the defenders have it too easy. Their task needs to be made harder, with more advantages being given to the creative players. This can only come from rule changes, or a concerted effort to make referees change their pro-defence bias. It is not a coincidence that virtually all the rotten decisions in the World Cup favoured the defence.

Nor is it a coincidence that when talk turns to the matter of too many games and exhausted players, the examples given are midfielders and forwards – rarely defenders, and never goalkeepers.

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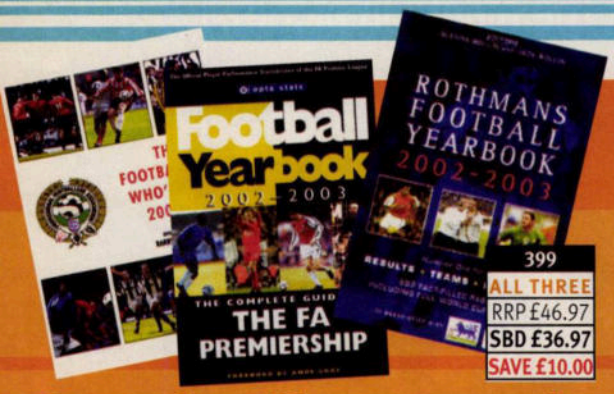

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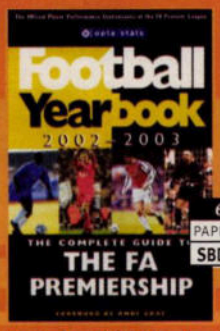

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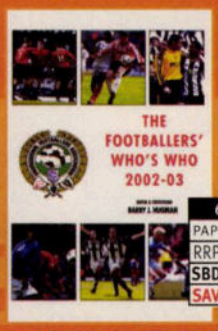

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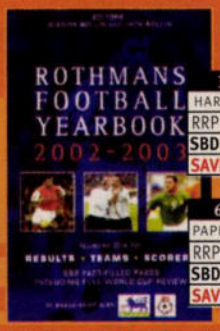

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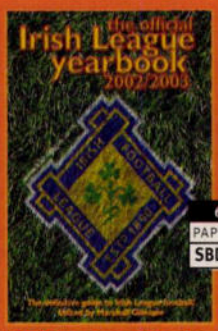

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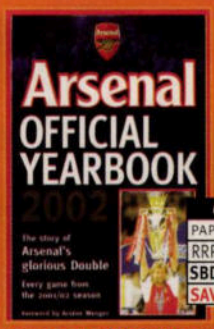

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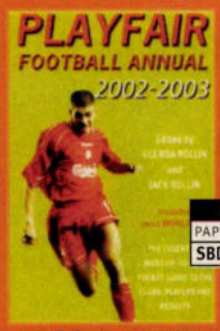

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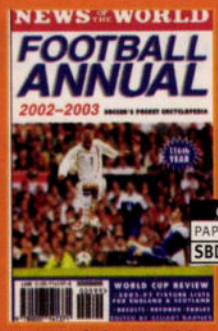

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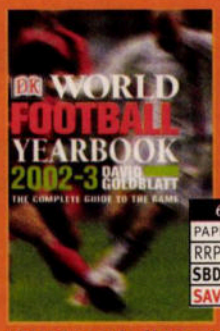

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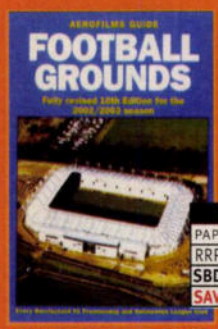

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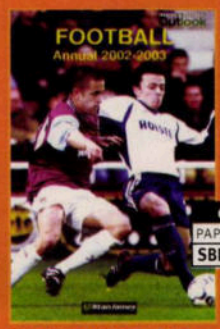

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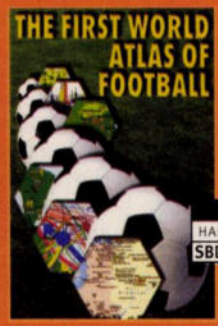

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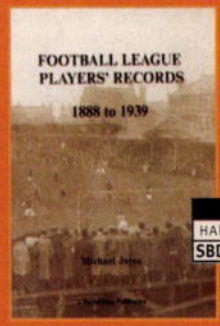

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The month in pictures

● 09/07/02...Bayern Munich and Udinese admit to holding talks over the possible sale of Carsten Jancker

● 10/07/02...Keith Cooper is sacked as FIFA's media chief

● 11/07/02...Roberto Baggio agrees a two-year contract extension at Brescia

● 14/07/02...Fulham beat FC Haka on away goals in the InterToto Cup

Why Walter mattered

Keir Radnedge pays tribute to "the most significant footballer in German history"

HISTORY, even football history, is rewritten so often that the original facts often go by the board. That has been the fate of Fritz Walter, captain of West Germany's 1954 World Cup-winners, who died aged 81 while his successors were seeking vainly to emulate his achievement in Korea/Japan.

If Germany had beaten Brazil in the 2002 Final it would have been less of a shock than the triumph of Walter's team against Hungary in the rain in the 1954 Final in Berne. All the showbiz fuss that surrounds today's footballers should not hide Walter's status as the most significant footballer in German history.

The pinnacle of Walter's achievement was reached during 14 days in June and July 1954, which spanned an 8-3 thrashing by Hungary in the first round of the Switzerland finals and the historic 3-2 victory over the same team in the Final.

Walter was 33, a creative, goalscoring inside-left from Kaiserslautern, who were then top dogs in West Germany's part-time, regional league system. The Germans' presence at the finals was an important milestone in itself. In the wake of the war, West Germany had been readmitted to the international competitive fold only after the 1950 World Cup. A place at the finals was a crucial step forward not merely for German football but for a nation seeking to regain some sort of post-war pride and identity.

In the first-round match, in Basle, Hungary strolled to victory over a German reserve side. According to Walter's classic memoir, simply entitled "3-2", Germany manager Sepp Herberger fielded reserves with the intention of holding out for a draw, which would have secured direct qualification for the quarter-finals. The Germans went on to beat Turkey 7-2 in a play-off, Yugoslavia 2-0 in the quarter-finals and then Austria 6-1 in the semis to qualify for the rematch with Hungary in the Final.

There, the Hungarians, lulled into a false sense of security by four unbeaten years, plus their first-round thrashing of the Germans, raced to a two-goal lead in 10 minutes. But the Germans, displaying the sort of spirit for which their footballers are legendary, hit back to win 3-2.

The team travelled home by train. It stopped at every station on the way and the players were mobbed by fans who overflowed the platforms at every stop. It was a victory for West Germany not just West German football. Walter, as captain and inspiration both on and off the pitch, was the hero of heroes.

In total, he scored 33 goals in 61 internationals and shared success with both club and country with his centre-forward brother, Ottmar.

The war years sliced Walter's career in two. He scored a hat-trick on his Germany debut – a 9-3 thrashing of Romania – but that was in July 1940. Walter was called up as a paratrooper and was among a group of Germans held at a prisoner of war camp in Romania in 1945. Realising who he was, the guards gave him false travel papers so he avoided a deportation for forced labour in the Soviet Union.

Walter was injured and missed Germany's first post-war international, a 1-0 win over Switzerland in 1950. A 3-1 defeat by Switzerland in November 1956 persuaded Walter to retire from the national team. By then he was 36 and injured increasingly often. But Germany missed him. Herberger persuaded Walter back for the 1958 World Cup finals.

One of the greats...Fritz Walter

'Walter, as captain and inspiration both on and off the pitch, was the hero of heroes after the 1954 World Cup Final win'

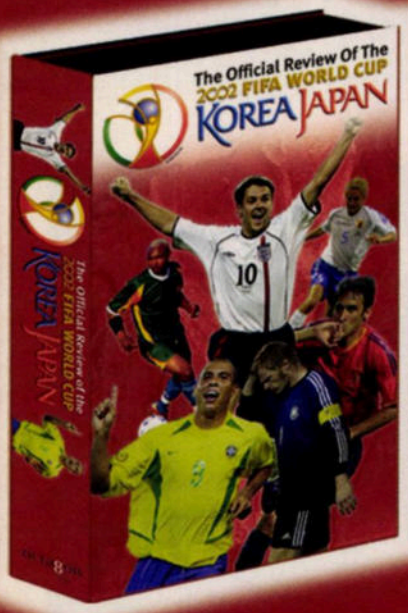
At 37, amazingly, he played five games in 16 days at the tournament, but the 3-1 semi-final defeat by hosts Sweden really was his last match for his country.

Walter stepped out into an honoured retirement and achieved no little success with a series of further football books.

Some 20 months ago, Uwe Seeler and Franz Beckenbauer were among the guests at a party to honour Walter's 80th birthday. It was there that Beckenbauer hailed Walter as "the most important German footballer of the century".

That was not false modesty. Beckenbauer was Germany's greatest football talent but Walter's achievement carried a significance that far outweighed sporting considerations.

A FEAST IN THE EAST



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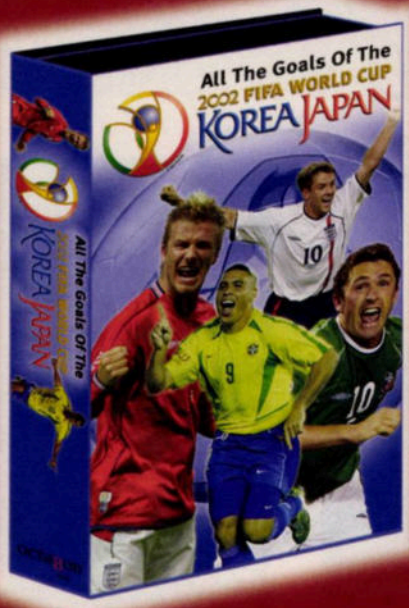

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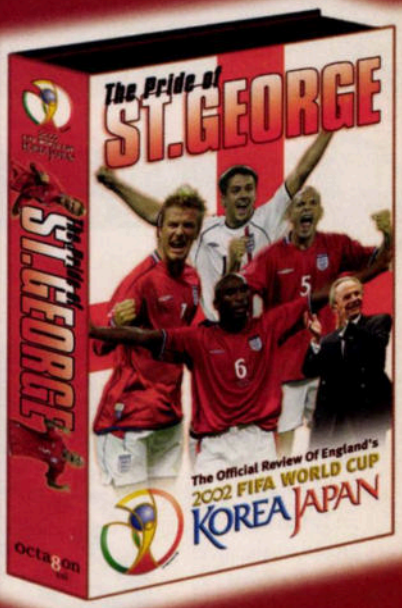

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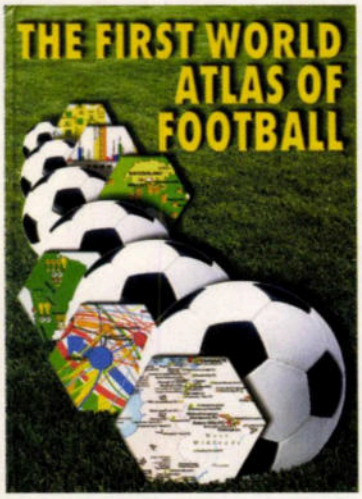
● 17/07/02...Claus Toppmoller is fined by the DFB for his behaviour at the German Cup Final

● 18/07/02...Leeds insist Rio Ferdinand is not for sale

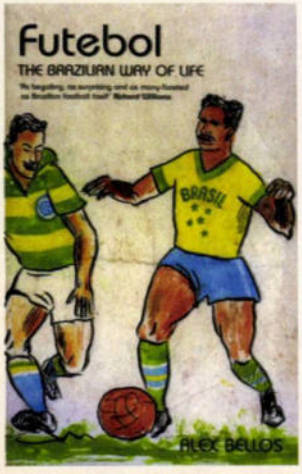
World Soccer BOOK REVIEW



The First World Atlas of Football (Infokart) is a huge labour of love from the Czech Republic. Radovan Jelinek and Jiri Tomes have produced a unique reference guide. How useful people find it is open to debate, but you can but admire the effort that has been put in.

A more conventional production is **Futebol: The Brazilian Way of Life** (Bloomsbury, £9.99), by Alex Bellos, the *Guardian's* Brazil correspondent.

It's a timely release, given the country's World Cup success, and a well-written examination of the ways in which football pervades all aspects of Brazilian life.



Bellos manages to avoid the cliches that accompany so much of the coverage of Brazilian football by the British media. He digs deep to uncover some unlikely stories in a lucid and entertaining book.

Next Month...

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WORLD CUP 2002 POST-MORTEM

Brains and brawn

Brazil's victory was due as much to fitness as skill, says Tim Vickery

RIGHT at the start of the 1998 World Cup Final, Zinedine Zidane waltzed around Dunga as if he was not there, Brazil's captain unable to catch the French maestro, even to kick him. It set the tone for the game, a defeat that was the culmination of Brazil's problems against all five European teams they met in the tournament.

This time it was a different story. Four straight wins over Europe's finest took Brazil to their fifth world title. Some were disappointed with the quality of their football. None could complain about their level of fitness. When Brazil at last met Germany in a World Cup match, they did so at no physical disadvantage, letting their extra flashes of inspiration tip the balance.

Paulo Paixao was the man responsible for Brazil's physical preparation. "I said before the World Cup that the side who had the physical and sports medicine aspect best organised would have the best chance of winning," he says. "And that's what happened."

Not that Paixao is trying to steal the glory for himself. "Brazil has a number of physical trainers who could have been in my place," he asserts. "But what is important to the way we do things is group work – doctors, physiologists, physiotherapists all providing a collective structure."

Physical preparation has long been taken seriously in Brazil. In their golden age it was customary for the team to win games in the second half. Many blamed their failure in the 1966 World Cup on the fact that the physical trainer came from a martial arts background.

But it is from the 1970s that Paixao believes Brazil really got its act together. "We made huge progress exactly because value was given to the idea of having a group of specialists working together. Nowadays, in terms of methodology of work, Europe is way behind Brazil, but the culture of physical preparation we have developed doesn't get the credit it deserves. I don't know why. Maybe it's because we're judged in socio-economic terms, looked down upon because we're a South American country.

"We think that the planning in Europe is wrong. They do their physical preparation work pre-season and then that's it for the year. So they don't take advantage of the fact that they have fewer games than in Brazilian football.

"Although they have fewer games, the number of players out injured is very high. They don't seem to mind. If one player gets injured, they go out and buy another. Brazil's training methods should be taken to Europe. I'm absolutely certain that fewer players would miss games through injury."

The absurd calendar of Brazilian football, where clubs can play 100 games a year, leaves those in Paixao's profession no room for complacency.

"In a way, I suppose, it becomes an advantage," he says, "because it forces you to draw up your work schedule carefully. With so many games, your margin for error is reduced drastically.

"Players in Brazil work much harder on physical preparation, and it's something they miss when they go to Europe. Cafu, for example, works out on his own. If you

Fairytale comeback...Ronaldo, who many doubted would play top-class football again after his lengthy knee problems, opens the scoring in the Final

ask European clubs for a player's physical record they don't give you anything. They have no record of tests carried out. Any club in Brazil can give you this information."

Following the principle of what can't be measured can't be managed, testing is at the centre of Brazil's physical preparation process.

"Without carrying out tests you can't draw up a work programme," says Paixao, "and in Europe they hardly seem to do any. In Brazil, all big clubs have physiology labs. From the start players are dealt with in a laboratory situation. The young player goes through a battery of tests to find out what he needs to fulfil his athletic potential. And it's the same throughout his career.

"What we do is focus on the specifics that a player requires, be it muscular reinforcement, stamina or aerobic work, or addressing muscular imbalance. You don't see this kind of work carried out in Europe."

'We believed the methods used to treat Ronaldo in Europe were wrong. We drew up a programme for him and could see by the results he was making progress'

Paulo Paixao

Such individual attention was fundamental to the World Cup campaign. In 1970 the entire squad was based at home and had months to prepare. In 2002 the squad was divided between Brazil and Europe, the players arrived at different stages of preparation and there was little time to prepare. When the action got under way, everyone complained that the cluttered calendar of modern football was making absurd demands on the players; everyone, that is, except Brazil.

The outstanding triumph for Brazil's methods of preparation is, of course, Ronaldo. When he went back to Brazil earlier this year the European press sniped that he was only returning for *Carnaval*.

Paixao tells it differently. "We wanted to bring him back because we thought the methods used with him in Europe were wrong. When we got hold of him, Ronaldo did all the tests, and we drew up a programme accordingly.

"Many doubted that he would play top-class football again, but we could see the results of the tests. So we knew that he was making progress, and with his strong desire to play, we were confident he would do well in the World Cup. In the event, he didn't need a single injection in the tournament, which for all of us involved in the preparation was a dream come true."

For the millions back home, the dream come true was the world title. The decisive moment in the Final was clearly the opening goal, which came at a time when Germany were on top.

A Brazilian attack seemed to have broken down. Ronaldo had lost possession and was on the floor. But he picked himself up, chased and tackled Dietmar Hamann, and as Rivaldo shaped to shoot, he was racing into position to slide home the rebound. It was a goal that had 'physical preparation' written all over it.

In this fairytale comeback, not only the scorer but the manner of the scoring could not have been more appropriate.

Open to question

More transparency from FIFA is needed after a string of bad refereeing decisions, argues Paul Gardner

SEPP BLATTER'S assertion of "Not while I'm in charge" would seem to have slammed the door against any possibility of football using technical aids to help improve refereeing performance.

But such an uncompromising stance hardly stands up to scrutiny. For a start, officiating crews already employ such aids – how else would one describe the system that allows the referee to be buzzed by his assistants? A system, incidentally, that is already available in a more sophisticated form that includes voice contact.

Ruled out...Morientes' 'golden goal' against South Korea

That, it will be argued, is merely improving communication between the officials, which is acceptable. What Blatter is against – indeed, afraid of – is that a line will be crossed into the uncharted area in which technology is calling the tune; into a game where cameras and machines and bleepers – and not referees – make the decisions.

The fear is unwarranted. I don't know of anyone who is suggesting, or even envisaging, such a development. But I do know plenty of people – myself among them – who find the current situation unsatisfactory.

The series of really bad calls during the 2002 World Cup were, of course, exposed by technology. The increasingly sophisticated quality of television replays leaves little room for doubt about errors, and it gets the evidence up on the screen within seconds.

To see a wonderful moment of skill from Spain's Joaquin, and virtually certain winning goal, nullified by an atrocious call from an out-of-position assistant referee is bound to start the thought process that an impersonal camera would do a better job than a human being.

But such use of technology *during the action* is obviously out of the question. No one is suggesting that the game be stopped, the replay viewed...and then what? In the case just mentioned, involving Joaquin, would all the players be asked to go back and take up the positions they were in when the official – mistakenly – judged the ball to be out of play, and then we start the play again?

Ridiculous. But if the referee's whistle had been a fraction of a second later, if it had come as the Korean goalkeeper was trying, but failing, to save Morientes' subsequent header – would there not then be a case for allowing the goal following a look at the replay? There would, but even that sensible possibility is evidently ruled out by Blatter's blanket ban.

Most of the crucial errors in Japan and Korea came from bad offside calls. Another situation that cannot be corrected once the call is made. It's possible that, in the future, the technology will exist that will be able to make infallible computer-based offside calls.

We do not seem to be anywhere near that possibility, so the only answer is Blatter's call for better-prepared officials. Technology can certainly help in their training – but the biggest obstacle to overcome remains the mulish obstinacy with which officials favour the defending, rather than the attacking, team.

There remains one area where common sense demands the employment of technical aids – deciding whether the ball has entered the goal or not. To its credit, FIFA has investigated this matter, but seems to have got bogged down trying to come up with an infallible system involving sensors. According to FIFA's head of refereeing, George Cumming, the research has shown the idea to be too costly – maybe as much as £250,000 per club per

Great escape...Germany's Frings got away with this handball on the line against the USA

season – to be practical. Perfection is not needed here. Nothing wildly sophisticated is needed to install a couple of cameras in positions to see whether the ball has entered the goal or not. That should be done in major tournaments, certainly in the World Cup.

Yet it probably won't be done and reasons will be found that show it to be impractical. This repeated stonewalling whenever changes are suggested leaves the impression that FIFA and the referees are not simply against technology, they are against modernisation of any sort. Their rules originated in the middle of the 19th century, and in many respects the mentality of that era remains in force.

Yes, a little technology has crept into refereeing with the buzzer system. Communication, it seems, is good – but only internal communication. When it comes to communicating to anyone else – journalists, fans, television viewers – referees retreat back into the world of 19th-century privilege. For the public, there is no 'right to know' when it comes to refereeing decisions.

'The repeated stonewalling whenever changes are suggested gives the impression FIFA is against modernisation of any sort'

Two examples from World Cup 2002. When Germany's Torsten Frings handled the ball on the goal-line against the USA, there was no whistle from referee Hugh Dallas. Did he not see the incident, or did he see it and decide it was not deliberate? We don't know – but we should. In the Spain-South Korea game, Ivan Helguera's headed goal was disallowed by referee Gamal Al-Ghandour – for what? We don't know, we are left to guess.

This deliberate withholding of information, this wish to operate in secret, is not good enough. To apply a current FIFA buzzword, more transparency is needed. The situation is easily corrected: all that is needed is the formulation of a set of signals that referees would be *obliged* to use when they make a call. This is not a new suggestion, but it always meets with standard resistance.

Listen to this: "It is not the duty of the referee nor is it a useful function to explain his decisions to the players or spectators. Any attempt to do so can lead to confusion, uncertainty and delay."

That was not written back in the 1800s – it is from a FIFA Memorandum to referees in the early 1970s. A slight softening was evident in the 1990s, when it was admitted that "a simple gesture…can aid communication and assist toward greater understanding" – though the emphasis here was on referee-player communication.

But the matter of keeping the public informed, that has never been addressed. It should be, right now – with the drawing up of a set of approved, obligatory signals. That is hardly a high-tech issue, but it will no doubt be resisted as if it were.

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

Living the dream

Guus Hiddink took South Korea further than they had ever dared to imagine. Keir Radnedge reports

GUUS HIDDINK is back in the real world. For 18 months he had been on a planet of his own, building a team with one target and a finish date: the ultimate one-track job.

Now, having taken South Korea up the World Cup cul-de-sac to the semi-finals, he is readjusting to the schizophrenic demands of European club football with PSV Eindhoven. The expectations are twice as complex: he must be successful in the short term, while laying the foundations for success in the long term.

Yet that high-profile achievement in a tournament a world apart from the Dutch and UEFA Champions Leagues is the yardstick by which he will be judged.

Hiddink flew out of Korea at precisely the right time. He could not have achieved anything further in team or personal terms. South Korea won a World Cup finals tie for the first time, progressed beyond the opening round for the first time and became the first Asian side to reach the semi-finals.

The 49-year-old Dutchman thus turned on its head the old prophetic cliche about an African team being the first non-European or South American nation to win the World Cup. Now all bets against an Asian team achieving that breakthrough are off. All thanks to Hiddink, whose success earned him an honorary citizenship and a university doctorate as well as free first-class air tickets and a string of lucrative commercial contracts.

'The players all made great progress, as individuals and as a team. They showed the world how much they enjoy their football'

Hiddink had no illusions about Korean football. He knew the K-League was no effective proving ground for the World Cup finals and so he persuaded federation president Chung Mong-joon to cancel the League this spring.

Chung, who not only signed Hiddink but kept the faith in times of uncertainty, did exactly what the coach wanted. He recognised that Hiddink was perfectly versed in the theory of preparing for major tournaments because of his experience with Holland at Euro 96 and France 98.

Give an intelligent, experienced coach the tools and he will deliver. Korea invested that much faith in Hiddink just as did co-hosts Japan in Philippe Troussier. Both were rewarded in equal measure. Given Japan's much shorter soccer history, reaching the second round was for them the comparative equal of the Koreans' fourth-place finish. But it was the Koreans' dramatic progress past Poland, the United States, Portugal, Italy and Spain that seized worldwide attention.

Semi-final defeat by Germany, as Hiddink's charges began to run out of steam, was no disgrace. The 3-2 defeat by Turkey in the third-place play-off was close enough to give the home fans an excuse for one last party. Then it was back to reality.

By then it was already common currency that Hiddink would be returning to Europe and the club world with PSV Eindhoven. Late interest from Leeds United proved too late.

"My contract was always going to end the day we went out of the World Cup," said Hiddink, who fuelled speculation over his return to Holland by adding: "To be frank, I like to be working on the pitch every day with the players. It's different being a national coach and not being in daily contact with the team.

"It was disappointing to lose the third-place match – that's the second time it has happened to me after 1998 with Holland. We were shaky in the first half and made some costly mistakes in defence. That left us with too much to do. But after the players' terrific effort in the second half and then the public's reaction, I can still be very proud of these guys and what we did.

"The players all made great progress, as individuals and as a team. They showed the world how much they enjoy their football and how much they like to go forward.

"This was a very big achievement for Korea. I came out 18 months ago and I made some tough demands which had to be carried through if we wanted to make a serious challenge to the established world order. The local football administrators deserve a lot of praise for putting the players at my disposal every day for three months up to the finals."

Hiddink was dismissive of the conspiracy theorists among the European media and political hierarchy. "These comments really make me angry," he said. "We could mention a lot of incidents in which we did not have the benefit of the doubt. An Italian player should have been sent off but the referee didn't see the incident, and we accepted that. This is football; sometimes it goes for you, sometimes against.

"The big teams of world football should always punish the little teams. If they don't they should look in the mirror. We had some weaknesses and we left gaps in our defence against both Italy and Spain. They should have punished us but they didn't. That was their responsibility, not ours."

Hiddink is another of those figures to prove a far greater coach than ever he was in a journeyman playing career with

A nation expects...Korea's massed Red Devil fans spell it out for Hiddink, while, left, the coach bids his farewells after the third-place match

De Graafschap then Washington Diplomats and San Jose Earthquakes in the old North American Soccer League. He transformed himself from player to coach with De Graafschap in 1982 and, two years later, took over for the first time at PSV.

Four League titles, three Cups, plus Champions Cup glory in 1988 – albeit on penalties – made Hiddink an international target. Fenerbahce in Turkey and Valencia in Spain were the next stops before he was appointed Holland boss in 1995.

His first high-profile tournament was mixed. Holland crashed 4-1 to hosts England in the first round of the 1996 European Championship finals and then went out to France on penalties in the quarter-finals after his bust-up with Edgar Davids. The midfielder accused him of favouritism in a racial row that infuriated the coach, who prided himself on his unprejudiced approach to his players of whatever racial background and talent level.

'What was so special in Korea was that the fans were able to encourage the players without ever resorting to any sort of violence'

The Dutch federation backed Hiddink, but penalties again proved the killer when Holland fell to Brazil in the 1998 World Cup semi-finals. His consolation was to collect the World Club Cup the following December as coach of Real Madrid.

But Madrid had internal problems that were beyond Hiddink's command. He lasted little more than half a season and then had a similarly brief spell at Betis. This left him available to succeed Huh Jung-moo as South Korea boss at the start of 2000.

Hiddink once said: "My philosophy is that if players enjoy the game, good results follow," and Korea's players proved his point. The extent is now set in World Cup folklore.

As Hiddink prepared to take his reported £2.7 million bonus home from Seoul, he had a few words of caution for the nation he leaves behind. "The fans must accept that the next manager will need to make some changes for the new challenges. There is the Asian Games and the Olympics and then the 2006 World Cup to think about – for which they will have to qualify, which won't be easy.

"The media must also have patience and take a long-term view. There will be some results which are not very good, just as I had results which were not what we would have wanted in an ideal word. But Korea has a tremendous fountain of enthusiastic support.

"I have spent many years in Europe, but what was so special here, by contrast, was that the fans were able to encourage their players without ever resorting to any sort of violence, and that was beautiful."

Thus Hiddink's legacy, not only for Korea but for the world, might be considered taking Pele's Beautiful Game off the pitch and on to the terraces.

China rising

The World Cup could return to Asia in 2014, Peter Velappan tells Keir Radnedge

'China would be excellent hosts. They'll have the infrastructure and all the knowhow sorted out long beforehand'

THE World Cup finals will be staged in China the next time they are held in Asia, according to the man best placed to judge.

Peter Velappan, general secretary of the Asian confederation, has no axe to grind on the issue. He will have retired from his arduous duties by then. But as he looks at the long-term future of the Asian game he has few doubts about the Chinese option.

Looking ahead...Velappan

One of the most crucial aspects of the 2002 finals for Asian football was the Chinese presence. They could not have chosen a more appropriate occasion on which to celebrate their World Cup debut, even though Velappan acknowledges they failed to do themselves justice.

"I really did expect more of them," he says. "I didn't think they would not only lose all their games but also fail to score a single goal. I don't think they got the preparation right."

As for the prospect of a Chinese bid to host the World Cup, Velappan sees a number of key features in the international calendar.

"First, they have the Olympics in Beijing in 2008, for which they are building 24 new stadia complexes around the country. If you consider that the World Cup is in Germany next and then Africa, according to president Blatter, in 2010, the earliest chance Asia will get it again is 2014.

"That would fit in very well with the progress China is making. I'm sure they would be excellent hosts. They will have the infrastructure and all the knowhow sorted out long before then."

Velappan, of course, has plenty of knowhow of his own, particularly after the diplomatic challenge of co-ordinating the World Cup preparations of the Koreans and Japanese – who battled with such determination and (on the Koreans' part) aggression for the right to be hosts.

"Six years ago after FIFA took the famous – or infamous – co-hosting decision, there was an enormous amount of ground to make up," he recalls. "That was because of what had gone on between the two countries, not only during the campaign but also, of course, because of the historical background. The Japanese took it very badly. They felt it was a big defeat."

Velappan set himself annual progress targets. "The first year was spent trying to arrange a kind of uneasy marriage, bringing the two of them together. It had been so competitive and no one wanted to lose face. We had to negotiate everything so delicately between them. Security, stadia, finance. It was one long balancing act.

"But slowly what emerged was the will to make it a success as one World Cup with two hosts – a real Asian answer, and that was when the dialogue started.

"The second year was all about the business of stadium construction. This was when we really got the Japanese and Koreans to sit down to compare notes. Then it started to get to a stage where the relationship between them turned into rivalry on a healthy scale."

Velappan's confidence in the co-hosts delivering on all their promises was tested severely by the Pacific Rim's economic crisis. "It hit Korea really badly, much worse than Japan," he says. "I was really worried about whether they could come through. I used to go out in a taxi in Seoul and talk to the driver – tell him the World Cup was coming and it would need everyone to get behind it.

"That's what happened, amazingly. In the end we were able to use the enthusiasm of the people to get the national and local governments to step in and underwrite the cost of the stadia construction."

Oddly, the only disappointment for Velappan was the failure of the traditional giants to live up to their highly hyped reputations – around which so much of the local promotion had been built.

"We have to be proud of the fact," he says, "that this was the first World Cup to destroy the traditional balance of power of Europe and South America. On the other hand, that's my only regret – that teams such as France, England, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Argentina didn't have more games at the finals.

"The promotional aspect and success of a World Cup depends partly on star players living up to their reputations, especially in countries where soccer is not maybe the No 1 team sport, like Japan for example. Unfortunately, they were all really a bit of a wet blanket. Fortunately, the fact that Japan and Korea played so well made up the gap."

That, perhaps, is the greatest legacy of the 2002 World Cup – the self-confidence that Asian football has gained not only off but also on the pitch.

A positive legacy

Japan's football future looks bright. Mike Plastow reports from Tokyo

NOW it is over, what remains of the 2002 World Cup in Japan? On the tangible side, Japan achieved just about everything it set out to. The team won their group and reached the last 16. They earned respect for their football and culture at home and abroad. The stadiums were excellent, the weather co-operated, and there were no big security or other organisational problems, excluding the ticketing fiasco.

Japan is left with a professional League of 28 teams (with generally sound finances), good youth programmes, unprecedented national interest in the sport, and a large number of state-of-the-art stadiums that will mostly be impossible to fill. It is a mixed but largely positive legacy, and as much as anyone could have hoped for a decade ago.

On the pitch, Philippe Troussier's young team won Japan's first World Cup victories and confirmed their ability to play at this level. Players such as Shinji Ono, Junichi Inamoto and Koji Nakata are still only in their early twenties and should be even better in 2006. This is the generation that was inspired as schoolboys in 1993, when the J.League began. The experiences of 2002 may produce a new crop of stars.

Among the players, Inamoto did the most to enhance his reputation after a disappointing season at Arsenal, and secured a loan move to Fulham. We won't see any great rush of Japanese players overseas, but more will go, and more clubs should at least have learnt to value them independently of shirt sales and sponsorship.

Zico, who at Kashima Antlers has been involved in the J.League from the start, is to succeed Troussier. He has no managerial experience, but his knowledge of Japanese football is second to none. Saburo Kawabuchi, who as J.League chairman has done more than anyone to revolutionise the Japanese game, is expected to take over from Shunichiro Okano as JFA president. An era has ended, but continuity is the theme.

'Many Japanese are painfully shy of foreigners, but once the hooligan threat failed to materialise the sheer joy of contact with fans from overseas was astonishing to watch'

In Japan, however, the most important legacy of this World Cup was what happened outside the grounds. The thousands of Japanese supporters dancing, jumping off bridges and chanting through the night reminded you of the scenes on Champs Elysees in 1998. Never mind that the French had won the World Cup, whereas the Japanese had only beaten Russia and Tunisia – 2002 was as much a watershed for Japan as 1998 was for France.

Spontaneous celebrations of the kind seen after the World Cup games were virtually unheard of, but this summer witnessed the eruption of a new cultural form in Japan. It had many novel aspects. Until recently, the national anthem was regarded with deep mistrust by many Japanese because of wartime associations. At the World Cup stadiums, the young Japanese sang with real pride for perhaps the first time in their lives and in a spirit of absolute international goodwill.

It was irredeemably cosmopolitan. Many Japanese are painfully shy of foreigners. That shyness, verging on xenophobia, was evident in the build-up, when the hooligan threat was the biggest concern. Instead, when that failed to materialise, the sheer joy and excitement of contact with foreign fans was infectious and astonishing to watch.

The transformation came suddenly. There was little visible excitement before the Belgium game as most people steeled themselves for the worst. Inamoto's brave performance set everybody talking. The fine win over Russia then fired the imagination of the nation. As that match drew to a close, the instantaneous TV viewer rating topped an incredible 80 per cent. The scenes outside Yokohama stadium and across the country that night will never be forgotten.

The experience of participating in the global fervour for football at close hand has been a revelation to many Japanese, for whom baseball was the benchmark in professional team sport. The J.League may struggle to maintain that momentum as the inevitable anti-climax sets in.

What is certain, however, is that the nation has been thrilled as never before by football and will never see it in the same way again. In all respects, the base is now secure for further progress.

Whole new ball game...Japanese fans, brought up on baseball, found new heroes to worship

Singing Les Bleus

Few predicted France's early exit – least of all the French themselves. Nick Bidwell and Andre Duclos report

LES BLEUS, what now? Down to earth with a devastating bump. Gone are the proud delusions about the primacy of French football, the supreme efficacy of the establishment at Clairefontaine turning out brilliant young footballers as though by some divine conveyor belt.

"Let's not burn what we used to adore," pleaded French federation boss Claude Simonet. But nobody was listening. No wins, no goals, no glory. Not since Brazil in 1966 had the World Cup holders fallen at the first hurdle. A long post-mortem could not be avoided.

Many chose to attack the players for being more interested in advertising campaigns than preparing for the World Cup; some argued that the team's pre-tournament training regime was too rigorous; others took issue with the scheduling of a friendly with gung-ho South Korea days before the big kick-off. It was pointed out that the friendly in which Zinedine Zidane picked up his fateful thigh injury was arranged only for the benefit of the team's Korean sponsors LG Electronics.

Team doctor Jean-Marcel Ferret described his players as being in an advanced state of physical and mental fatigue. The likes of Patrick Vieira and Thierry Henry never looked their usual sprightly selves. But were France more tired than anyone else? Final contestants Brazil and Germany also used players who had been through a gruelling European season.

Certainly the absence of their two most creative talents, Zidane and Robert Pires, through injury was a handicap the French never came close to overcoming. Their absence was compounded by the outrageous behaviour of Henry against Uruguay, when his rash and ill-natured foul got him a red card, which put him out of not only that game but also the subsequent, embarrassing encounter with Denmark. Yet the void they left does not wholly explain France's fall from grace. After all, when Zidane was banned for two games at France 98, the team still managed to qualify for the knockout stages.

The fact Zidane was absent cannot mask the bizarre errors made by coach Roger Lemerre, not least his choice of Frank Leboeuf in the centre of defence.

Lemerre, who eventually had to be sacked after refusing to fall on his sword, must shoulder a large proportion of the blame. If he was an inspired leader at Euro 2000, changing his line-up from game to game and never missing a tactical trick, World Cup 2002 will always be remembered as his personal Waterloo.

Lemerre was too loyal to the players who had previously served France so well. Despite showing clear signs of wear and tear, ageing stars such as Leboeuf, Emmanuel Petit, Youri Djorkaeff and Christophe Dugarry were regarded as untouchable; up-and-coming players such as full-backs Willy Sagnol and Mickael Silvestre, Chelsea stopper William Gallas and Newcastle winger Laurent Robert were not given enough chances.

The shabby treatment of Lyon playmaker Eric Carriere was indicative of Lemerre's attempt to etch the national team composition in stone. After impressively standing in for Zidane at last year's Confederations Cup, Carriere was inexplicably left out of the squad in favour of bit-part Parma schemer Johan Micoud.

Nor was Lemerre on top of his game tactically at the World Cup. Though their 4-2-3-1 formation struck gold in previous tournaments, in South Korea it did not function at all. Moves were too slow and predictable, there was not nearly enough penetration via the flanks and David Trezeguet was far too isolated up front.

With opponents able to stifle them in midfield and hit on the break, a number of players lobbied for more flexibility, but Lemerre could not or would not change his system. "He chose to die with his ideas," concluded an unnamed player.

That comment hinted at a French camp of no calm fraternity. A number of players sullenly maintained a press boycott, while too many others played the blame game. Leboeuf, whose missed tackle on El Hadji Diouf led to Senegal's winning goal, sought to avoid responsibility by slamming Djorkaeff for giving the ball away at the start of the move; Trezeguet moaned at length about the lack of decent service.

The French were further undone by the culture of complacency that grew up around them over the past four years. While players were elevated to celebrity status, the public assumed another World Cup was as good as won and the country's sports press maintained its non-critical stance, the danger signs were ignored.

Disappointing home warm-up games – a goalless draw with Russia and a 2-1 defeat by Belgium – revealed a French side far from all-conquering, but no action was taken. Lemerre and his players believed it would all be all right on the night. It was not.

'France were undone by a culture of complacency, and Lemerre was too loyal to ageing stars who had previously served him so well'

Downcast...Zidane leaves the World Cup stage

Pain and no gain...Veron, out of sorts during the tournament, feels the impact of a challenge from Manchester United club-mate Scholes against England

The blame game

Eric Weil in Buenos Aires on the reaction to Argentina's disastrous campaign

ARGENTINA has yet to recover from the shock of first-round elimination. For a nation rocked by economic chaos, the World Cup was meant to cheer everybody up. The grieving has been made worse because expectations – in Argentina and around the world – had been so high.

Predictably, coach Marcelo Bielsa is proving to be a fall guy, with the main criticism directed at his tactics.

For years Argentina have lacked goalscoring power and surprise in attack. In Japan, Bielsa persisted in playing with two wide attackers and one central striker, but opponents developed ways of counteracting this system long ago.

The central striker, whether Gabriel Batistuta or Hernan Crespo, found himself crowded out, but Bielsa insisted: "I don't think that playing with two centre-forwards would have given us more chances. The problem was we did not convert enough of them."

Bielsa's 3-3-1-3 formation was, on paper, ambitious. It may have succeeded in qualifying, but against stronger rivals in the finals, especially with so many tired Europe-based players, it was not nearly enough.

Argentina were, perhaps, victims of their own reputation against rivals who opted for safety in defence.

"No other team was better than us," insisted Crespo. "But they all packed their defence in the penalty area, and with that alone they caused us problems."

Faced with such rigid opposition, Bielsa's men failed to adapt their own tactics, while their most important player, Juan Sebastian Veron, was out of sorts.

Argentina's only two goals came from set-pieces – a corner, which for once found the right man, and a rebound from a saved penalty. On the other hand, nobody scored against Argentina from open play either.

"We were clearly the best team in the group," claimed Bielsa. "We were the only team who played attacking football. We should have scored more against Nigeria, not lost against England and beaten Sweden comfortably."

The build-up to the vital match against England created a lot of pressure. But pressure tends to be handled better by Saxons than Latins.

Bielsa's contract ended on June 30, while many of his players will be too old by 2006. He refused to speak about his future, but in view of recent problems in obtaining payment of his salary, it is highly unlikely that he will continue.

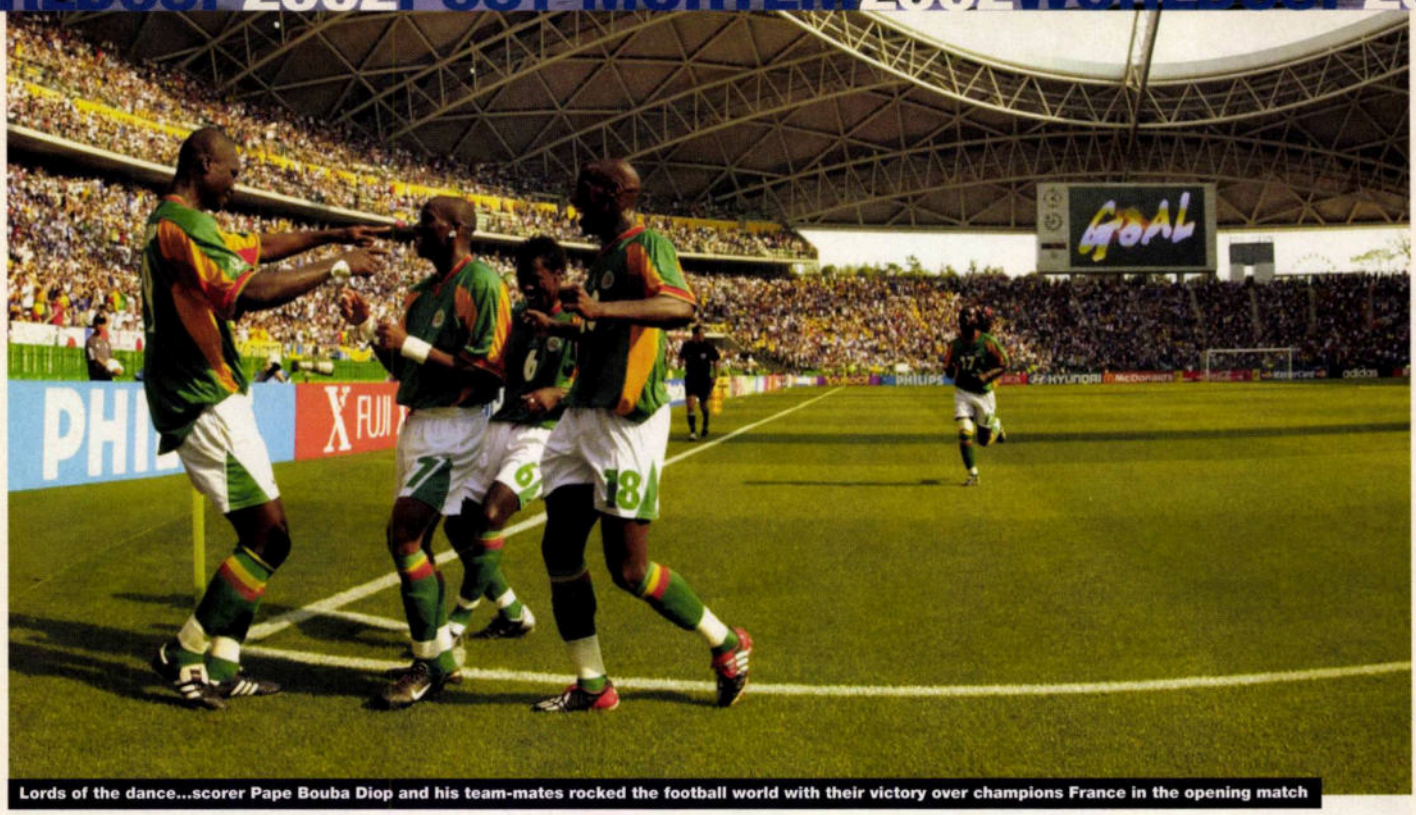
> 'I don't think that playing two centre-forwards would have given us more chances. The problem was we did not convert enough of them'
>
> *Marcelo Bielsa*

Technical director Jose Pekerman is still in his post and FA president Julio Grondona was due to speak to him either to offer him Bielsa's job or ask him to select a successor.

Pekerman, who has coached junior teams to South American and world titles, was offered the senior team job four years ago, but declined, arguing that coaching juniors and seniors was not the same. He recommended Bielsa instead.

Now, however, Pekerman would be able to coach young stars like Juan Riquelme, Javier Saviola and Andres D'Alessandro, the last two key members of Argentina's World Youth Cup-winning side in 2001.

Grondona may favour Pekerman, but a poll by sports paper *Ole* showed readers preferred Carlos Bianchi, who took Boca Juniors to two Libertadores Cups. Bianchi received 55 per cent of the 80,000 votes, Bielsa 20 per cent and Pekerman only seven per cent.



Lords of the dance...scorer Pape Bouba Diop and his team-mates rocked the football world with their victory over champions France in the opening match

Happy days

James Copnall looks at the future for Senegal after their amazing journey to the quarter-finals

'At the start, no one would have bet a franc on us – and yet here we are among the best eight teams in the world'

Aliou Cisse

FEW teams leave a World Cup with smiles on their faces, but Senegal did just that. The manner of the Lions' quarter-final loss to Turkey was not one to cherish, but the fact that the small West African nation at its first World Cup had even got to the last eight was uppermost in the players' minds in the minutes after the game in Osaka.

"Disappointed? Not at all," said captain Aliou Cisse. "At the start, no one would have bet a franc on us, and here we are among the best eight teams in the world."

How did the Lions get that far? First, by beating France in the opening game, a result that shocked the world – but not the Senegalese. Their French coach, Bruno Metsu, had been saying – in private – right from the draw in December that his charges would beat his compatriots. So they did, and with a performance buzzing with physical superiority and tactical competence.

After that, achieving their initial target – the second round – should have been easy. Still, Senegal made it difficult for themselves, first playing terribly against Denmark for a half, then surrendering a 3-0 lead against Uruguay in a second-half showing of almost unforgivable laxity. The fact that the West Africans emerged from both those games with a point, however, speaks volumes for their force of character.

What followed was even better. Sweden, who had finished top of the first round's toughest group, took the lead in the second-round encounter through a Henrik Larsson header. Senegal's response was stirring, as Henri Camara equalised then scored the golden goal that sent the Lions through.

In beating the Swedes, Senegal had become only the second African team, after Cameroon in 1990, to reach the quarter-finals. Their limp performance in losing to Turkey can largely be put down to fatigue. "We were exhausted, that's all," said assistant coach Jules Bocande.

But where do the Lions go from here? With their only competitive games until the 2004 Nations Cup finals being against Gambia, Lesotho and Sao Tome e Principe, there is no great challenge on the immediate horizon, something Metsu recognises. He has signed a 10-month deal with United Arab Emirates club Al Ain, after which he hopes to return as Senegal boss.

Whether Metsu's wish is granted will be a determining factor in Senegal's future. It would be difficult to find another coach able to create the same nurturing environment for his players, Metsu's greatest strength.

As for the players, some have queried whether they can add to their achievements. "After what we have done here, how can we top it?" said one. "I wouldn't be surprised if some players called it a day – after all, they are not all as young as they say they are."

Age issues aside, there are enough Senegalese who have publicly committed to continuing – El Hadji Diouf, who was voted into the FIFA team of the World Cup, Salif Diao, Cisse – to ensure the Lions can put out a decent side for years to come.

Three-goal midfielder Pape Bouba Diop, Khalilou Fadiga and Diouf have emerged as world-class players. The World Cup will have other beneficial effects, too. It will not be long before the bulk of the squad is playing in Europe's very best leagues, which can only have advantages for the national team.

So the future remains pretty bright. The Lions will qualify for the 2004 Nations Cup at a canter, and once there will be among the favourites to lift a trophy they have never won. Many of the squad should still be around for the 2006 World Cup, too, but perhaps that is looking too far ahead.

"My ambition is to qualify for the Nations Cup, and then, why not win it?" says Diouf. Why not indeed? After what they showed at the World Cup, anything is possible.

Smiling through...Senegal celebrate another goal

The last laugh

Nick Bidwell on how Turkey's performances silenced the critics of coach Senol Gunes

TURKEY'S bronze medal at World Cup 2002 certainly left the nation's press corps in a state of some embarrassment.

Throughout the first round and especially after the team's disappointing display in the 1-1 draw with Costa Rica, many of the players were singled out for hysterical criticism – notably off-form striker Hakan Sukur – but no one came under fiercer fire than coach Senol Gunes.

In the eyes of the media from Istanbul and Ankara, Gunes could do absolutely nothing right. He was targeted for a so-called defensive approach, using an alien long-ball game and for playing only one genuine striker in Hakan. Personal attacks were the order of the day, too – he was constantly ridiculed for his Black Sea accent and his dress sense, with some even taking exception to his ties.

But Gunes would have the last laugh. After Turkey qualified for the second round on goal difference, he promised the team would improve and was true to his word.

In subsequent wins against Japan, Senegal and South Korea, and even the semi-final loss to Brazil, Gunes' side proved themselves a most impressive outfit, sound tactically and technically, and undoubtedly one of the top attractions on offer at the World Cup.

Their 4-3-2-1 formation provided them a with a well-balanced shape, they were organised and combative, and in terms of intelligent movement, slick inter-passing and skill levels, they were outstanding.

Midfielder Umit Davala – he of the mohican – may have insisted that Turkey's fine results in the Far East were a product of superior teamwork rather than great individuals, but this was no side of journeymen. Keeper Rustu Recber, midfielders Tugay Kerimoglu and Yildiray Basturk and particularly deep-lying left-flank wizard Hasan Sas all enjoyed a wonderful World Cup and would be an asset to any international XI.

Job well done...the Turkish squad celebrate their third-place finish

'We can be proud to have made our mark on the world stage'

Senol Gunes

Probably Gunes' one mistake was in persevering with obviously out-of-touch skipper Hakan. Reason must have told the coach that a player so lacking in confidence was a liability and that the highly promising Besiktas front-runner Ilhan Mansiz was a thoroughly worthy replacement. However, the matter was not nearly so clear-cut for Gunes. Hakan is Turkey's biggest sporting personality, and thus untouchable.

Ironically, he was a player reborn when teamed up with Ilhan for the third-place play-off victory over South Korea. The pair combined brilliantly, and Gunes may now have to abandon his lone target man system for a pair of central strikers.

With a bonus of £260,000 and a luxury apartment in Istanbul, each member of the Turkish squad made tangible economic gains from their third-place finish. Yet as Gunes was quick to point out, Turkish football was the real beneficiary.

"In recent times, we have made our mark as a strong European football nation and now we have done the same on the world stage," he said.

"We can only be proud of what we achieved, our good football and our spirit. We beat both the host nations and it's a source of tremendous satisfaction that we gave Brazil their toughest games out here. We couldn't quite make our dream of winning the World Cup come true, but it's still a big honour to be the third-best country in the world.

"Our next goal is to go far at Euro 2004 and then we hope to do even better at the 2006 World Cup. There are two million Turks living in Germany, and we'll have great support at that tournament. You could say we will almost be hosts."

Eyeing the prize...skipper Hakan Sukur, Alpay and goalkeeper Rustu take a close look at their bronze medals

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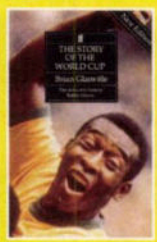

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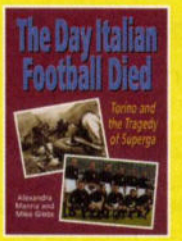

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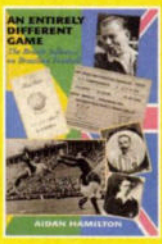

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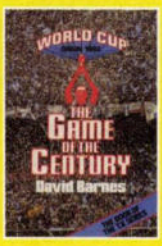

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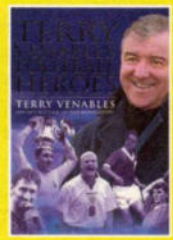

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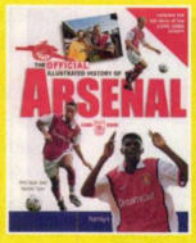

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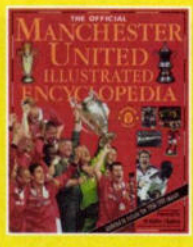

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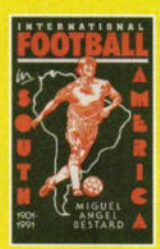

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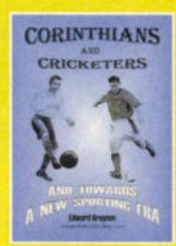

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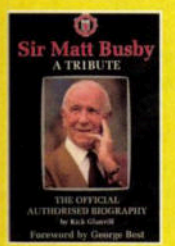

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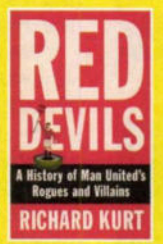

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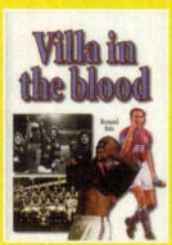

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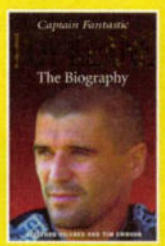

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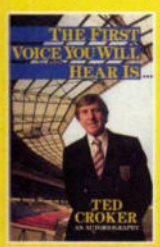

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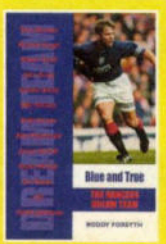

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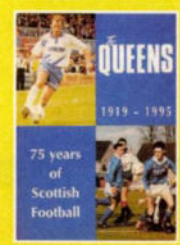

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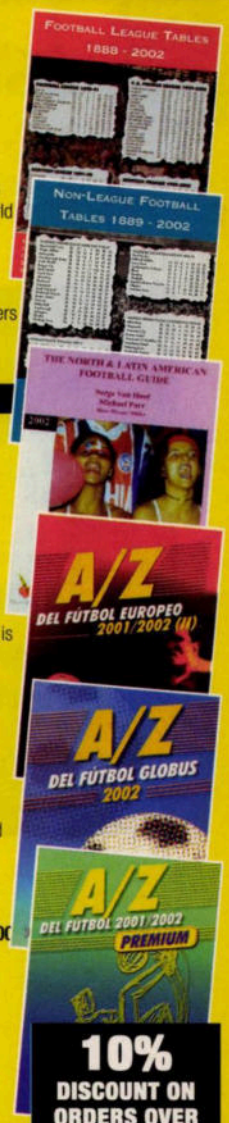

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Reducing congestion...Real Madrid or Bayer Leverkusen could win the 2003-04 edition by playing just 13 games, not 17

UEFA's own goal

The Champions League U-turn is a sign of changing times

UEFA has scored a fascinating own goal by deciding to change the Champions League format from next season i.e. 2003-04.

In the past we have always been told that changing the format was a matter that involved lengthy study groups, complex consultations with the clubs and then a wait because of the impossibility of renegotiating existing sponsorship and television contracts.

Now, with one wave of Lennart Johansson's magic wand, the second group stage has been replaced by a knockout round. That reduces the match burden on prospective winners from 17 matches to 13, assuming direct entry to the group stage.

UEFA said the switch was at the request of TV executives worried about a slip in viewing figures from an excess of matches. Presumably those same executives will expect a commensurate cut in the fees they pay, just as sponsors will expect to shell out less for reduced TV exposure.

The knock-on effect has the big clubs worried. Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said: "We have committed ourselves to a certain number of professional players on expensive long-term contracts, and suddenly, without any warning or discussion, the budgeted income level has been cut."

Two issues seem to have been behind the move. The first concerns the change in balance of the UEFA executive, which is now far more FIFA-friendly and therefore more willing to assist it in reducing stress on players vis-à-vis the World Cup. The other issue concerned Johansson's role. The Swede was president of FIFA's 2002 World Cup organising committee, so was one of the men who soaked up most of the pressure over the way in which fixture fatigue undermined European nations' World Cup campaigns.

UEFA would no doubt point out that TV arrangements for the Champions League must change in any case. The reason is UEFA's defeat by the European Commission over exclusive broadcasting rights. The EC was concerned that UEFA's system of selling exclusive four-year contracts for live terrestrial coverage to one broadcaster in each country was an infringement of competition laws. Commissioner Mario Monti ruled that such "distorted competition between broadcasters had the effect of limiting output and limiting price competition."

UEFA has now agreed a new formula through which it will sell rights for live screening of Champions League games for up to three years using a public tender procedure. If it cannot sell the rights to other matches to another broadcaster, then the clubs involved can sell the rights themselves. All media rights will also be thrown open – meaning that internet operators and cellphone companies can also carry matches.

Meanwhile, UEFA continues to miss a trick in not revising the daft system whereby teams level on points are split by mutual results rather than goal difference. That would have reduced the 'dead game' quota at a stroke – as we have said here before many times.

'With one wave of Lennart Johansson's magic wand, the second group stage has been replaced by a knockout round'

Double trouble for Britain

BRITISH football's traditional place at the top table of the international game is in double jeopardy. David Will is FIFA's British vice-president and he emerged on the 'losing' side in the duel with Sepp Blatter over the internal audit committee. Also, of course, Will was the FIFA executive's ticketing supremo for the World Cup. All the gains made in creating a system that significantly reduced the black market were overtaken by the problems caused by late distribution.

England's FA compounded the problem by standing up so publicly for the outward-bound Michel Zen-Ruffinen – including FA chief executive Adam Crozier's ill-advised admonition to Blatter at FIFA Congress.

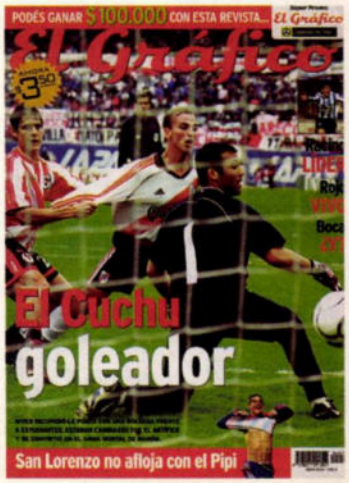
The FA had not been under any serious pressure to go public on its vote. With Blatter clearly heading for victory it would have been simple to delay the decision (publicly at least) until Congress.

Earlier this year, FIFA vice-president Jack Warner warned that the British vice-presidency could be written out of FIFA's statutes in the centenary revision. It will take some saving now.

RIP El Grafico

A MEASURE of the depth of Argentina's economic crisis has been the collapse of the sports weekly *El Grafico*. The magazine had been running for around 70 years, surviving all manner of coups d'etat and economic crises until this latest round. It cultivated a tone of family intimacy, a style enhanced by the way it drew many of its own staff from journalistic dynasties such as the Alfieri family.

Ricardo Alfieri junior was taking pictures in Korea/Japan, but for other clients. It was a sad break with tradition for the family and the magazine with its unique picture library.



Cooper, a victim of his own success

ONE (surviving) member of FIFA's executive warned me during the World Cup that the domestic blood-letting would not cease with the sacking of general secretary Michel Zen-Ruffinen. Quite the reverse, I was told.

So it proved. A week after the return from Yokohama seven more FIFA faithfuls were shown the door. Most baffling for the hacks who have been FIFA regulars over the years was the ousting of communications director Keith Cooper, superstar of the genre.

Cooper's task over the past four years had been to build a super-smooth media operation for Korea/Japan. Obviously, concentrating so hard on the task in hand left him not enough time (even if he had the inclination, which he did not) to play the necessary political game.

Markus Siegler, Blatter's personal media adviser, has taken over as acting director of communications, just as Urs Linzi has taken over as acting general secretary. How long they will reign in that fashion is uncertain.

Blatter is telling the executive in September about his proposals for the corporate restructuring of FIFA. Once the regimental structure has been approved, the president can assign his troops as he sees fit.

Baffling sacking...Keith Cooper was surprisingly ousted

Wanted: friends for UEFA

LENNART JOHANSSON and Gerhard Aigner have led UEFA into an era of undreamed-of wealth thanks to the Champions League. But money can't buy them love – not even on home ground.

Sepp Blatter's crushing of UEFA-backed Issa Hayatou in the FIFA presidential election was a mighty blow against Europe's senior football politicians. First, how humiliating that UEFA could not even run its own candidate against Blatter.

Second, how doubly humiliating that more than half UEFA's members voted against the official line – including virtually all Eastern Europe, who have little love for Johansson.

Third, even worse, Blatter's European supporters included such rich pillars of the UEFA establishment as Spain, France and Germany.

Keep it simple (and sensible)

I HAVE a wonderful idea to simplify the life of all those involved in running a World Cup.

It goes like this: the top seeds in each group of the finals should be based in one venue. That would reduce travel stress on players, officials and fans. It would also ease administrative stress on local tourism officials and hotel staff, and ease traffic congestion and pollution.

Why has no one thought of it before? In fact, they have. FIFA did. That is how modern World Cups were organised until Michel Platini and France 98 came along. Platini, joint president of the French organising committee, decided that the entire country should have the pleasure of seeing all the top teams. So the fixed-venue idea was scrapped. He had a point, and Korea and Japan copied the idea.

Now, however, the format has run through two World Cups and, frankly, it does not work. It is too complicated; it puts added travel stress on already tired players; it adds to accommodation problems; it costs significant extra money; it adds to pressure on road and rail – and that adds to the pollution.

FIFA is politically sensitive these days. Few issues are more globally sensitive than pollution, so there might be a few brownie points in trying to rein in the carbon monoxide menace that is the World Cup on permanent manoeuvre.

Of course, it will never catch on – much too sensible. Still, no harm in mentioning it. The old ways are often still the best.

Stay put...top seeds Italy (white) should have remained in one place

Africa 2010 – don't bet on it

SEPP BLATTER has refused to rule out co-hosting for future World Cups, despite the financial mountain swallowed up by the 2002 finals. The FIFA president made it clear, however, that his organisation will be taking a leaf out of UEFA's book.

Co-hosting in future, as at the 2000 European Championship in Holland and Belgium, must be run under the aegis of only one local organising committee. Korea and Japan ran their own organisations, and KOWOC and JAWOC both had their own political agendas which cost FIFA dear in terms of both money and manpower.

Behind the scenes, Blatter's comment on co-hosting was being viewed as a shot across South African bows vis-à-vis 2010. Morocco will certainly campaign again and could draw significant support by twinning with Algeria or Tunisia.

First, of course, it will be fascinating to see how the politically split African confederation proposes to manage a single-continent hosting contest. Bear in mind first that half of Africa voted against their own president (Issa Hayatou) in the FIFA presidentials.

Second, several of the major World Cup sponsors are unhappy; they see no significant commercial gain out of Africa. Such whispers have encouraged speculation that FIFA might like to find a detour around Africa altogether in 2010. Blatter would need a good excuse...such as chaos at CAF, perhaps?

Watch this space...Hyundai and McDonald's were among 15 companies who paid £290million between them for official sponsor status at the World Cup

Taking care of business

Keir Radnedge on the commercial winners of the World Cup

BRAZIL won the World Cup, South Korea 'won' the co-hosts' race to see who could go the furthest on the pitch. The economic winners, however, are not known yet.

The World Cup represents a major economic influence on the life of any host country. The problem in assessing how South Korea and Japan emerged commercially is that the two countries began from different start lines.

Japan sought the prize of World Cup hosting as a signal that the country had 'arrived' in terms of the world's most popular sport. Once that goal had been achieved, economic, social and cultural benefits were welcome but not paramount.

Korea's concept of the value-added World Cup was entirely different. Obtaining World Cup hosting rights was not an end in itself; it was the platform on which the country expected – and intended – to make economic and promotional gains.

An economic think tank controlled by the major advertising agency Dentsu predicted late last year that Japan would harvest £15billion in direct and indirect income (one per cent of gross national product) from the investment by Japanese industry, national and local government and by all those foreign visitors.

First reaction from the Japanese business establishment after the finals was cautiously positive. Bank of Japan governor Masaru Hayami said: "Economic activity is beginning to show some promise and it [the World Cup] will be a factor that will support such a trend."

When the facts are clear, Japanese national and local governments may regret the lukewarm support they gave the football establishment. Japan wasted a major opportunity to promote the country, its culture and strengths to the rest of the world.

That was evidenced by the refusal to provide a major venue in Tokyo and the decision to build a nonsense stadium down in Oita to the exclusion of Hiroshima. By Western promotional standards, the Japanese missed a lot of tricks.

Pre-tournament forecasts for the value of the World Cup to South Korea were far lower than Dentsu's optimistic estimate for Japan in cash terms, but far greater considering the comparative values of the local economies.

'Japan wasted a major opportunity to promote the country, its culture and strengths to the rest of the world'

The Korea Development Institute estimated the event would generate £5.8bn in added production and create 350,000 new jobs. Airlines, electronics, car rental, communications, hotels, souvenir shops as well as food and beverage industries were all expected to profit, while an increase in staff hiring in construction and service industries brought the jobless rate down below three per cent.

World Cup sponsor Hyundai spent around £64m in the expectation of expanding international business. It expected a return worldwide of up to 50 times the investment, which appeared optimistic but, again, only time will tell.

The catch for companies such as Hyundai was that they paid enormous sums merely for the privilege of being an official sponsor.

Given the gains made by non-sponsor companies, the value of formal sponsorship may need to be brought ▶

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under severe review. The World Cup sponsors are largely global brands and there were 15 this time around, more than ever before and three more than last time. They comprised Adidas (balls and staff kit), Avaya (communications), Budweiser (beer), Coca-Cola (soft drink), Fuji Xerox (copying), Fujifilm (film), Gillette (razors), Hyundai (vehicles), JVC (video), KT-Korea/NTT-Japan (phone services), MasterCard (credit card), McDonald's (snack food), Philips (electronics), Toshiba (computers) and Yahoo! (website).

Between them they paid around £290m – at a cost of between £9.6m and £22.5m each – just for the right to have their name on the official products, on the advertising boards around the pitches and the right of access to stadia facilities.

The value to global brands is more easily understood than the sponsorship involvement of domestic companies.

The promotional aspect, for example, was surely all that was available for Korean Telecom, one of the local sponsors. KT will have earned extra income through mobile phone sales and usage (up around 250 per cent on South Korea's match nights). But whether that covered its promotional outlay would appear open to question given that KT is already the dominant domestic force.

Not, however, according to the company's own figures. The former state-run Korea Telecom forecast, before the finals, that it would earn around £1.1bn directly attributable to its sponsorship. On the eve of the semi-finals it revised that figure up to £2.65bn, though that was an income, not profits, forecast.

Was it worth it, compared with the success of non-sponsors? LG Electronics spent £6.4m on World Cup-related marketing in Korea and abroad, and estimated sales increases of up to 100 per cent. Motor manufacturers Daewoo and Kia, rivals of Hyundai, offered discounts to car buyers during the finals and recouped all their marketing costs through increased sales in the tournament's first two weeks.

Not everyone was a winner. Shares on the Korean stock market dipped four per cent after the 2-1 win over Italy. Perhaps that was affected by concerns that the Korean workforce would not be concentrating on, well, work.

The company that appeared to have taken the biggest local pasting was Nike, producers of the Korean team kit. First, it took publicity hits over the high price of replica shirts, which, after the first few games, became virtually unobtainable. Instead shops, markets and street stalls were flooded out with the 'Be The Reds' T-shirts of the Red Devil fan club. The red tide was the real marketing coup of the World Cup.

SK Telecom, a minor shareholder in KT and a significantly smaller competitor, had gambled on sponsoring not the World Cup, not the Korean national team, but Red Devil. Whoever came up with the idea deserves a World Cup-sized bonus. Never mind the global sponsors, Be The Reds was the runaway marketing success of the World Cup – in Korea at least.

One surprise loser – a major lesson for future hosts – was the tourist industry. Some predictions suggested up to 790,000 foreign visitors, almost twice the normal total. In fact, the Korean Ministry of Culture and Tourism reported 'only' 463,000 – the same number as last year.

The Tourism Ministry appeared not to have learnt the lesson of previous World Cups. While many tourists come to a country specifically to watch the World Cup, a similar number stay away to avoid it.

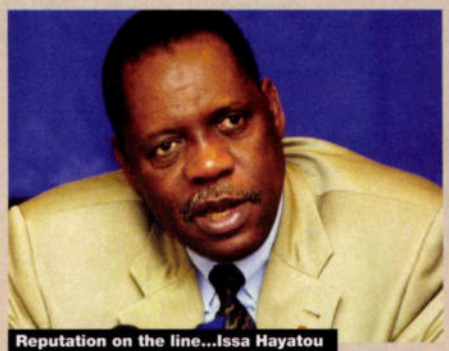
Devil delight...'Be The Reds' shirts were big sellers

Korea's Deputy Prime Minister, Jeon Yun-churl, predicted an economic growth rate of more than six per cent for the second quarter of the year, partly fuelled by the financial fallout of the World Cup. His forecast appears to be supported by a fascinating study from economist Chang Se-moon on growth rates of World Cup hosts. This showed that, of the last 12 hosts, eight reported an increase in World Cup year compared with the previous 12 months, while only four recorded a slump (Chile 1962, West Germany 1974, Italy 1990 and the USA 1994).

The average growth rate for World Cup host countries was 0.85 per cent (1.1 per cent for those that also won the Cup).

All we need now are the end-of-year figures for Korea and Japan so they may be compared with previous World Cup hosts, not only with each other. Korean companies certainly invested more time and money on the ground than their Japanese counterparts. But did Japan's approach make more sense? Watch this space.

Hayatou thinks again


Reputation on the line...Issa Hayatou

The CAF president's future is uncertain after his heavy defeat by Sepp Blatter. Mark Gleeson reports

VICTORY for Sepp Blatter in the FIFA presidential election in Seoul was another crushing setback for the reputation of the defeated challenger, Issa Hayatou. The heavy loss – 139 votes to 56 – has left the Confederation of African Football leader rethinking his place at the helm of the continent's governing body. The Cameroonian was expectedly beaten by Blatter in the vote at FIFA Congress, but just 19 of Africa's 52 member countries voted for him.

Hayatou's confidants say this virtual vote of no confidence from his own constituency, plus a similar desertion by the African bloc at the previous FIFA presidential election in Paris four years ago, has left him disillusioned and ready to depart. That figure of 19 is an estimate from Hayatou's supporters and less than half of his total vote.

When Lennart Johansson took on Blatter for the FIFA presidency before France 98, Hayatou confidently promised the UEFA president the united support of the African bloc. He got a major shock when about half the countries baulked and voted for Blatter instead. It caused a few recriminations but all seemed forgiven two years later when Hayatou won his own presidential election at the CAF Congress in Accra with a sweeping majority.

Only four countries voted against him, setting him up for another four-year term, which ends in 2004. By then, Hayatou would have served a total of 16 years at the CAF helm.

Hayatou is considering two options, say his loyalists. He can resign after CAF opens its new headquarters in Cairo in September, but that would leave the maverick Farah Addo of Somalia, CAF's senior vice-president, in charge to finish the mandate – a prospect that few are willing to risk.

The other is to see out his mandate until early 2004, giving enough time to groom a potential successor, most likely to be Amadou Diakite from Mali.

The Blatter camp in Africa, headed by high-profile former stars such as Abedi Pele and Roger Milla and run from the sidelines by London-based journalist Emmanuel Maradas, has already promised it will find a candidate to stand in 2004. "We know who it is, but it's not the time to say just yet," said Abedi Pele, now vice-president of Ghana's FA.

There is a third possible scenario – and one well worth betting on. Time will allow Hayatou to reflect, then decide there is no way he is going to let Blatter beat him in his own backyard and stand again in a potentially acrimonious battle. African football politics will be no place for the faint-hearted in the next 18 months.

WORLDSERVICE

INTERNATIONALS

Wednesday, May 22

May 22 - Helsinki - friendly
Finland 2 (Riihilahti 70, Kuqi 84)
Latvia 1 (Pahars 39)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,617. **Ref:** Jakobsson (Ice)
Finland: A Niemi (Jaaskelainen 46) - Hyypia, Saarinen, Pasanen, Riihilahti (Valakari 90), Johansson (Kuqi 46), Litmanen (Kuivasto 90), Gronlund (Hietanen 69), Tihinen, Kolkka (Roiha 78), Nurmela (Kopteff 61).
Latvia: Kolinko - Astafjevs, Isakovs, Zemlinskis, Lukasevics, Igor N Stepanovs, Rubins, Laizans, Bleidelis (Kolesnicenko 87), Pahars (Miholaps 54), Stolcers (Rimkus 66).

May 22 - Bodo - friendly
Norway 1 (Solskjaer 60)
Iceland 1 (J K Gudjonsson 5)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,126. **Ref:** Richards (Wal)
Norway: Myhre - Bergdolmo, H Berg, R Johnsen, Riise, Tessem (Rushfeldt 46), Andresen (Saeternes 80), Andersen, Leonhardsen, Solskjaer, Iversen.
Iceland: Arason - Einarsson, Ingimarsson, Thorsteinsson, Vidarsson, J K Gudjonsson, Stigsson, R Kristinsson (J B Gudmundsson 75), I Sigurdsson (T Gudmundsson 80), Baldvinsson (Gislason 83), H Helguson (O O Bjarnason 59).

Thursday, May 23

May 23 - Totori, Japan - friendly
Ecuador 0
Senegal 1 (R Guerron og 69)
HT: 0-0
Ecuador: Cevallos - G Espinoza (I Hurtado 46), Poroso, R Guerron, Chala, A Aguinaga (Fernandez 75), Kaviedes (Asencio 46), Gomez (De la Cruz 46), E Tenorio (Obregon 46), Sanchez (Mendez 46), Grueso.
Senegal: Sylva - A Cisse, Coly, Daf (Ndour 46), Diatta, Diao, P B Diop, Moussa N'Diaye (S Camara 46), P Sarr, Diouf, H Camara.

May 23 - Hong Kong - Reunification Cup 3rd-place
Hong Kong XI 0
Scotland 4 (Kyle 23, Thompson 37, Dailly 51, Gemmill 72)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Ramachandran (Mly)
Hong Kong: Fan Chun-yip (Chan Ka-ki 54) - Yau Kin-wai, Cordeiro, Anilton Da Conceicao (Luk Koon-pong 34), Andre, McKeown, Shum Kwok-pui, Chan Ho-man (Yeung Ching-kwong 77), Udebuluzor, Poon Yiu-cheuk (Lee Wai-man 77), Aderbal Filho.
Scotland: Douglas (Gallacher 77) - Dailly, Weir, Ross (Cummings 46), Gemmill (G Alexander 88), Stockdale, Thompson (Dobie 46), Johnston (Williams 61), Severin, Kyle (O'Connor 82), Wilkie.

May 23 - Hong Kong - Reunification Cup Final
Turkey 0
South Africa 2 (B McCarthy 58, 90)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Fong (HK)
Turkey: Rustu (Omer 81) - Umit Davala (Bulent 46), Umit Ozat, Alpay (Emre Asik 85), Okan (Ilhan 46), Tugay (Tayfur 69), Hakan Sukur, Hakan Unsal (Abdullah 46), Ergun (Arif 86), Fatih Akyel (Nihat 69), Basturk (Izzet 55).
South Africa: Arendse - Nzama (Molefe 12), Carnell, Mngomeni (Sibaya 56), Mnguni, Issa, Nomvete (B McCarthy 56), Buckley (Fortune 76), Radebe, Pienaar (Zuma 57), Koumantarakis.

Saturday, May 25

May 25 - Macao - friendly
China 0
Portugal 2 (Nuno Gomes 51, Pauleta 62)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Kim Tae-young (SKo)
China: Jiang Jin (An Qi 46) - Xu Yunlong, Li Weifeng, Wu Chengying, Sun Jihai (Yang Pu 79), Du Wei, Li Tie (Gao Yao 56), Li Xiaopeng (Yu Genwei 66), Ma Mingyu (Zhao Junzhe 46), Yang Chen (Su Maozhen 65), Hao Haidong (Qu Bo 46).
Portugal: Vitor Baia (Nelson 87) - Beto (Jorge Costa 46), Jorge Andrade (Fernando Couto 46), Abel Xavier (Frechaut 46), Caneira, Paulo Bento (Pauleta 46), Capucho (Rui Jorge 46), Pedro Barbosa (Sergio Conceicao 46), Rui Costa (Figo 77), Paulo Sousa (Petit 42), Nuno Gomes.

May 25 - Tokyo - friendly
Japan 1 (Mjallby og 62)
Sweden 1 (Allback 20)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 55,418. **Ref:** Zhou (Chn)
Japan: Narazaki - Hattori (Myojin 46), Morioka (Akita 74), Matsuda (Miyamoto 46), K Nakata, Morishima (T Suzuki 46), H Nakata (Ogasawara 64), Toda (Ichikawa 88), Inamoto (Fukunishi 69), Ono (Alex 56), Yanagisawa (Nakayama 68).
Sweden: Hedman - Mellberg, P Andersson, Mjallby (Jakobsson 77), Lucic, Magnus Svensson (Alexandersson 16), Linderoth, A Svensson, Ljungberg (Andreas Andersson 74), Larsson, Allback (Ibrahimovic 67).

May 25 - Kuala Lumpur - friendly
Malaysia 0
Brazil 4 (Ronaldo 52, Juninho Paulista 64, Denilson 71, Edilson 79)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Rungklay (Tha)
Malaysia: Azmin (Mohamad 84) - Misbah, Senghu (Sukon 40), Muhamed, Talib (Samion 52), Sulong (Faisal 40), Liew, Ahmad (Marzuk 74), Indraputra (Jamil 60), Jamlus (Marjan 46), Akmal (Hassan 46).
Brazil: Marcos (Dida 46) - Lucio (Vampeta 73), Edmilson (Denilson 46), Roque Junior (Anderson Polga 73), Cafu (Belletti 68), Emerson Ferreira (Gilberto Silva 68), Kleberson (Juninho Paulista 61), Rivaldo (Edilson 61), Roberto Carlos (Junior 68), Ronaldo (Luizao 73), Ronaldinho (Kaka 61).

Sunday, May 26

May 26 - Kumamoto, Japan - friendly
Belgium 1 (Goor 23)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,769. **Ref:** Matsumura (Jap)
Belgium: De Vlieger - Van Kerckhoven, De Boeck (Van Meir 43), Deflandre (J Peeters 46), Van Buyten (Vanderhaeghe 72), Goor, Simons, Vermant (M Mpenza 57), Verheyen (Strupar 67), Wilmots (Thijs 90), Walem (Boffin 84).
Costa Rica: Lonnis - Wright, Marin (Rodriguez 88), Wallace, C Castro (Vallejos, 80), G Martinez, Wanchope (W Parks 72), M Solis (R Cordero 90), Lopez (Fonseca 46), Centeno, Gomez (Bryce 75).

May 26 - Wakayama, Japan - friendly
Denmark 2 (Gronkjaer 17, E Sand 67)
Tunisia 1 (Jaziri 62)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 19,800. **Ref:** Yoshida (Jap)
Denmark: Sorensen - Helveg, Laursen (Lustu 63), Henriksen (Poulsen 63), Heintze, Tofting (C Jensen 69), Gravesen, Tomasson, Gronkjaer, E Sand (Madsen 87), Rommedahl.
Tunisia: Boumnijel - Badra, Jaidi, Mkademi, Mkacher, Baya, Gabsi, Ghodhbane, Mhadhebi, Jelassi, Sellimi.

May 26 - Kobe, Japan - friendly
England 2 (Vassell 12, Fowler 90)
Cameroon 2 (Eto'o 5, Njitap 58)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 42,000. **Ref:** Katayama (Jap)
England: Martyn (James 46) - Ferdinand (Keown 46), Campbell (Southgate 46), Brown, Bridge, Scholes (Mills 46), Hargreaves, J Cole, Owen (Sheringham 46), Heskey (Sinclair 46), Vassell (Fowler 76).
Cameroon: Alioum (Songo'o 78) - Song (Ndo 69), Kalla (Mettomo 56), Wome (Njanka 61), Tchato, Njitap (Alnoudji 66), Etame-Mayer (Epalle 60), Foe (Djemba-Djemba 53), Olembe (Ngom Kome 53), Mboma (N'Diefi 65), Eto'o (Suffo 60).

May 26 - Suwon - friendly
South Korea 2 (Park Ji-sung 26, Seol Ki-hyeon 41)
France 3 (Trezeguet 16, Dugarry 53, Leboeuf 89)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 42,000. **Ref:** Okada (Jap)
South Korea: Kim Byung-ji - Kim Nam-il, Hong Myung-bo (Choi Sung-yong 65), Choi Jin-cheul (Lee Min-sung 65), Song Chong-gug (Cha Doo-ri 69), Yoo Sang-chul, Lee Young-pyo, Choi Tai-uk, Park Ji-sung (Yoon Jong-hwan 77), Seol Ki-hyeon, Hwang Sun-hong (Choi Yong-soo 46).
France: Barthez - Thuram (Candela 46), Desailly (Silvestre 73), Lizarazu (Sagnol 82), Leboeuf, Vieira (Makelele 78), Petit, Trezeguet, Djorkaeff (Cisse 65), Henry (Dugarry 46), Zidane (Wiltord 38).

Friday, June 7

June 7 - Andorra - friendly
Andorra 0
Armenia 2 (Shakhgeldyan 8, Arman Karamian 81)
HT: 0-1

Wednesday, June 26

June 26 - Maputo - friendly
Mozambique 1 (Marcos 76)
Angola 1 (Akwa pen 31)
HT: 0-1

Sunday, June 30

June 30 - Thimphu - friendly
Bhutan 4 (Dorji 3, 67, 77, Chetteri 75)
Montserrat 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 15,000

Wednesday, July 3

July 3 - Estonia - friendly
Estonia 0
Azerbaijan 0

Saturday, July 6

July 6 - St George's - Gold Cup prlm, 1st leg
Grenada 8 (Phillip, Etienne, Rennie 5, Charles)
Saint-Martin 3 (Lynch, Pindi, Samer)
HT: 2-2

July 6 - Riga - friendly
Latvia 0
Azerbaijan 0
Att: 2,000. **Ref:** Mezelis (Lit)
Latvia: Vanins - Zirnis, Astafjevs (Kolesnicenko 58), Zemlinskis, Morozs, Igor V Stepanovs, Isakovs, Bleidelis (Dobrecovs 68), Miholaps (Jelisejevs 58), Rubins, Stolcers (Rimkus 46). *Sent off: Rimkus 50min.*
Azerbaijan: Gasanzade - Karimov, Yadullayev, Sadigov, Akhmedov, Imamaliyev (A Mamedov 90), Aliev (Mabiyev 90), E Guliev, K Guliev, Gurbanov (S Mamedov 88), Ismailov (Karimov 77). *Sent off: Yadullayev 50min.*

Sunday, July 7

July 7 - Fort-de-France - Gold Cup prlm, 1st leg
Guadeloupe 4 (Cassubie, og, Benom, Mocka)
Puerto Rico 0
HT: 0-0

July 7 - Kazakhstan - friendly
Kazakhstan 1
Estonia 1

Monday, July 8

July 8 - Lilongwe - friendly
Malawi 2 (Kondowe 28, Nkhwazi 87)
Zimbabwe 2 (Mguni 25, 63)
HT: 1-1

OCEANIA NATIONS CUP

In Auckland, New Zealand

Group A

July 6

New Caledonia 1 (Sinedo 78)
Fiji 2 (Veresa Toma 23, Bukaudi 49)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Rugg (NZ)
New Caledonia: Hne - Oiremoin, Case, Steeven Longue, Kabeu (Dahote 65), Mapou, Tidjine, Kauma, Sinedo, Cawa (Elmour 85), Hay (Faye 52).
Fiji: Tuba - Viliame Toma, Nasema, M Masi, Baleinuku, Bukaudi, Doidoi, E Masi, Namawa, Kainihewe, Veresa Toma (Dau 90).

Australia 2 (Mori 69, Despotovski 85)
Vanuatu 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Ariiotima (Tah)
Australia: Petkovic - De Amicis, Kisnorbo, Durakovic, Horvat, North, Blagojevic, Pondeljak (Despotovski 62), Chipperfield (Middleby 72), Mori, Milicic (Trimboli 62).
Vanuatu: D Chilia - Laura, Bibi, Marango, S Chilia, Mermer, Haitong (Qorig 85), Demas, Iwai (Yelou 60), Maki (Tomake 64), D K Alick.

July 8

Fiji 0
Vanuatu 1 (Marango 6)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 800. **Ref:** Sosogan (PNG)
Fiji: Tuba - Viliame Toma, Nasema, M Masi, Baleinuku, Bukaudi, Doidoi, E Masi, Namawa (Dau 60), Bola (Bula 77), Kainihewe (Veresa Toma 58).
Vanuatu: D Chilia - Laura, Bibi, Marango, S Chilia, Mermer, Haitong (Maki 70), Demas, D K Alick, Yelou (Iwai 72), Tomake (Qorig 81).

Australia 11 (Despotovski 2, pen 56, 76, 77, Horvat 15, Chipperfield 22, 35, Mori 34, Costanzo 83, Porter 86, Trimboli 90)
New Caledonia 0
HT: 5-0. **Att:** 200. **Ref:** Rugg (NZ)
Australia: Anastasiadis - Costanzo, Juric, Durakovic, Horvat (Kisnorbo 46), Middleby, Blagojevic, North, Chipperfield (Trimboli 46), Mori (Porter 59), Despotovski.
New Caledonia: Hne - Oiremoin, Case, Elmour, Kabeu, Mapou, Tidjine (Steeven Longue 40), Kauma (Cawa 64), Sinedo (Nepamoindou 53), Dahote, Hay.

July 10

Vanuatu 1 (Iwai 76)
New Caledonia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 500. **Ref:** Ariiotima (Tah)
Vanuatu: D Chilia - Laura, Bibi, Marango, S Chilia, Mermer (Silas 90), Haitong (Yelou 59), Demas, Iwai, Maki (Tomake 72), D K Alick.
New Caledonia: Dawano - Oiremoin, Case, Elmour, Faye, Kabeu (Tidjine 49), Mapou (Steeven Longue 46), Stone Longue (Kauma 72), Sinedo, Dahote, Hay.

Australia 8 (Milicic 5, Porter 8, 13, 44, 53, Juric 36, Trimboli 47, De Amicis 89)
Fiji 0
HT: 5-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Sosongan (PNG)
Australia: Petkovic - De Amicis, Horvat (Durakovic 46), Kisnorbo, Porter, Chipperfield (Middleby 59), Pondeljak, Costanzo (Blagojevic 52), Milicic, Trimboli, Juric.
Fiji: Tuba (Tavuyara 20) - Viliame Toma, Rokotakala, Nasema, M Masi, Bukaudi (E Masi 59), Doidoi, Delai, Bola, Kainihewe (Baleinuku 68), Veresa Toma.

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	3	3	0	0	21	0	9
Vanuatu	3	2	0	1	2	2	6
Fiji	3	1	0	2	2	10	3
New Caledonia	3	0	0	3	1	14	0

Group B

July 5

Papua New Guinea 0
Solomon Islands 0
Att: 1,000. **Ref:** Breeze (Aus)
Papua New Guinea: Aua - Aisa, Komboi, Hans, Sow, Malus, Daniel, Davani (Elizah 65), Moiyap, Tomda (Mali 76), Gule.
Solomon Islands: Aefi - S Daudau, Houkarawa (Allen 83), Ruakome (P Daudau 62), Ruhasia, Menapi, B Suri, Waita, Samani (Wickham 72), Koto, Omokirio.

New Zealand 4 (Nelsen 29, Vicelich 49, Urlovic 80, Campbell 88)
Tahiti 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Attison (Van)
New Zealand: Batty - Oughton, Zoricich (Burton 73), Lines (Campbell 64), Jackson, Killen (Urlovic 75), Bouckenooghe, Nelsen, Vicelich, Smith, Davis.
Tahiti: Tapeta - Fatupua-Lecaill, Maurirere (Terevarua 59), Booene, Auraa, Garcia, Zaveroni, Tagawa (Wajoka 68), Senechal, N Bennett, Tchen (Sang 62).

July 7

Solomon Islands 2 (P Daudau 8, Menapi 25)
Tahiti 3 (Booene 42, Tagawa 57, Fatupua-Lecaill 90)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Breeze (Aus)
Solomon Islands: Aefi - S Daudau, Houkarawa, Ruhasia, Menapi, B Suri (Firisua 82), P Daudau (Faarodo 75), Wickham, Waita (Paoka 67), Koto, Omokirio.
Tahiti: Tapeta - Fatupua-Lecaill, Maurirere, Booene, Auraa, Garcia, Tagawa, Senechal (Wajoka 75), Guyon, Tchen, R Bennett (Terevarua 82).

New Zealand 9 (Killen 8, 10, 28, 50, Campbell 26, 85, Nelsen 53, Burton 87, De Gregorio 90)
Papua New Guinea 1 (Aisa pen 35)
HT: 4-1. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Rakaroi (Fij)
New Zealand: Bannatyne - Oughton (Perry 55), Jones, Zoricich (Smith 46), Burton, Lines, Killen (De Gregorio 61), Nelsen, Vicelich, Campbell, Davis.
Papua New Guinea: Aua - Aisa, Komboi, Hans, Sow, Malus, Daniel, Davani, Elizah (Gule 46), Moiyap (Lohai 46), Tomda (Kamake 57).

July 9

Tahiti 3 (Garcia 29, Tagawa 50, 64)
Papua New Guinea 1 (Davani 44)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 800. **Ref:** Rakaroi (Fij)
Tahiti: Samin - Fatupua-Lecaill, Maurirere, Booene, Auraa, Garcia, Tagawa (Terevarua 74), Senechal (Wajoka 83), N Bennett, Guyon (Zaveroni 53), Tchen.
Papua New Guinea: Aua - Aisa, Komboi, Hans, Sow (Gule 63), Daniel, Davani, Elizah, Moiyap, Kamake, Tomda (Malus 68). *Sent off: Malus 89min.*

New Zealand 6 (Vicelich 28, 44, Urlovic 42, Campbell 49, 75, Burton 88)
Solomon Islands 1 (Faarodo 73)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Attison (Van)
New Zealand: Batty - Jones, Perry, Burton, Urlovic (De Gregorio 46; Oughton 59), Jackson, Bouckenooghe, Nelsen, Vicelich (Collins 51), Campbell, Davis.
Solomon Islands: Aefi - Houkarawa, G Suri (Ruakome 60), Ruhasia, Menapi, B Suri (Paoka 36), Wickham (Firisua 66), Waita, Koto, Omokirio, Faarodo. *Sent off: Paoka 85min.*

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Zealand	3	3	0	0	19	2	9
Tahiti	3	2	0	1	6	7	6
Solomon Islands	3	0	1	2	3	9	1
Papua NG	3	0	1	2	2	12	1

Semi-finals

July 12

Australia 2 (Durakovic 88, Mori 96 - golden goal)
Tahiti 1 (Zaveroni 39)
Aet. **HT:** 0-1. **90mins:** 1-1. **Att:** 400. **Ref:** Rugg (NZ)
Australia: Petkovic - De Amicis (Middleby 51), North, Durakovic, Mori, Despotovski (Porter 51), Chipperfield, Pondeljak, Blagojevic (Trimboli 65), Costanzo, Juric.
Tahiti: Samin - Fatupua-Lecaill, Booene, Auraa, Garcia, Zaveroni, Tagawa (Wajoka 93), N Bennett, Sang, Terevarua, Tchen (Senechal 62).

New Zealand 3 (Burton 13, 64, Killen 23)
Vanuatu 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Breeze (Aus)
New Zealand: Batty - Oughton, Zoricich (Jones 71), Burton, Lines, Jackson, Killen (Bouckenooghe 75), Elliott (Campbell 69), Nelsen, Vicelich, Davis.
Vanuatu: D Chilia - Tabe, Laura, Bibi, Marango, S Chilia, Mermer (Yelou 50), Haitong (Qorig 75), Iwai, D K Alick, Tomake (Vava 82).

Third-place play-off

July 14

Tahiti 1 (Auraa 65)
Vanuatu 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Rakaroi (Fij)
Tahiti: Samin - Fatupua-Lecaill, Kautai (Sang 85), Maurirere, Booene, Auraa, Garcia (R Bennett 46), Zaveroni, Tagawa, Senechal (Marmaouyet 80), Terevarua.
Vanuatu: D Chilia - Laura, Bibi, Marango, Vava (Maki 67), S Chilia, Demas, S A Alick (Mermer 46), D K Alick, Qorig, Yelou (Iwai 57).

Final

July 14

Australia 0
New Zealand 1 (Nelsen 78)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Ariiotima (Tah)
Australia: Petkovic - De Amicis (Middleby 82), North (Pondeljak 82), Durakovic, Horvat, Kisnorbo, Porter (Despotovski 73), Mori, Chipperfield, Costanzo, Juric.
New Zealand: Batty (Bannatyne 57) - Oughton, Zoricich, Burton, Lines, Jackson, Killen, Elliott, Nelsen, Vicelich, Davis.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

In Switzerland

Group 1

May 17 - Zurich
England 2 (Defoe 3, Crouch 53)
Switzerland 1 (Frei 58)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Hanacsek (Hun)

May 17 - Basle
Italy 1 (Bonazzoli 57)
Portugal 1 (Helder Postiga 48)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Brugger (Aut)
Sent off: Jorge Ribeiro (Portugal) 53min

May 20 - Zurich
Portugal 0
Switzerland 2 (Cabanas pen 60, Frei 73)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ovrebo (Nor)

May 20 - Basle
Italy 2 (Maccarone 58, 84)
England 1 (Barry 64)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Iturralde Gonzalez (Spa)
Sent off: Bonera (Italy) 90min

May 22 - Basle
Switzerland 0
Italy 0
Ref: Granat (Pol)

May 22 - Zurich
Portugal 3 (Felipe Teixeira 7, Makukula pen 20, Hugo Viana 69)
England 1 (Smith 43)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Ersoy (Tur)

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Switzerland	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Portugal	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
England	3	1	0	2	4	6	3

Group 2

May 16 - Geneva
France 2 (Govou 41, Sorlin 45)
Czech Republic 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Ersoy (Tur)

May 16 - Lausanne
Greece 1 (Gitas 90)
Belgium 2 (Daerden 33, Soetaers 83)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Granat (Pol)

May 19 - Geneva
Belgium 0
Czech Republic 1 (Jiranek 19)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Tangawarima (Zim)

May 19 - Lausanne
Greece 1 (Patsatzoglou 84)
France 3 (Armand 37, Frau 40, 61)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Wack (Ger)

May 21 - Lausanne
Czech Republic 1 (Grygera pen 36)
Greece 1 (Kyriazis 69)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Hanacsek (Hun)

May 21 - Geneva
Belgium 0
France 2 (Daerden og 74, Luyindula 86)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Brugger (Aut)

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
Czech Republic	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
Belgium	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Greece	3	0	1	2	3	6	1

Semi-finals

May 25 - Basle
France 2 (Malbranque 62, Sorlin 70)
Switzerland 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Iturralde Gonzalez (Spa)
Sent off: Keller (Switzerland) 41min

May 25 - Zurich
Czech Republic 3 (Rozehnal 1, Pospisil 9, 83)
Italy 2 (Pirlo pen 86, Maccarone 90)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Wack (Ger)

Final

May 28 - Saint-Jakob Park, Basle
France 0
Czech Republic 0
Aet. **Att:** 20,400. **Ref:** Ovrebo (Nor)
Czech Republic 3-1 on pens
France: Landreau - Reveillere, Boumsong, Brechet, Escude - Pedretti, Berson (Sable 87) - Malbranque (Meriem 64), Sorlin - Govou (Frau 76), Luyindula.
Czech Republic: Cech - Hubschman, Jiranek (Kovac 33), Rozehnal, Grygera - Zelenka (Polak 81), Vorisek - Pitak, Skacel - Baros (Pospisil 38), Vachousek.

EUROPE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

1st qual rnd, 1st legs

July 17

F91 Dudelange (Lux) 1 (Remy 54)
Vardar Skopje (Mac) 1 (Georgievski 68)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Kostadinov (Bul)

FBK Kaunas (Lit) 2 (Velicka 38, pen 42)
Dinamo Tirana (Alb) 3 (Ahmataj 55, Pisha 56, Qorri 76)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Chikun (Bls)

Flora Tallinn (Est) 0
APOEL Nicosia (Cyp) 0
Ref: Skjerven (Nor)

Hibernians (Mlt) 2 (Chukunyere 7, Pulis 37)
Shelbourne (Ire) 2 (Byrne 6, Gannon 66)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Blareau (Blg)

Portadown (NI) 0
Belshina Bobruisk (Bls) 0
Ref: Kovacic (Cro)

Serif Tiraspol (Mol) 2 (Priganiuc 57, Tarkhnishvili pen 85)
Zhenis Astana (Kaz) 1 (Lovchev 8)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Uzun (Tur)

Skonto Riga (Lat) 5 (Kolesnicenko 13, Zemlinskis 61, Korgalidze 65, Ksanavicius 86, Jelisejevs 90)
Barry Town (Wal) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Pucek (Cze)

Tampere United (Fin) 0
Pyunik Yerevan (Arm) 4 (Arman Karamian 32, 67, Artavazd Karamian 48, A Mkrchyan 72)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Salomir (Rom)

Torpedo Kutaisi (Geo) 5 (Asatiani 15, 46, Ionanidze 33, Kvetenadze 67, Poroshyn 71)
B36 Torshavn (Far) 2 (Lakjuni 53, Mortansson 74)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Richards (Wal)

Zeljeznicar (Bos) 3 (Guvo 4, 56, Gredic 38)
IA Akranes (Ice) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Drabec (Aut)

2nd qual rnd draw

Boavista (Por) v Hibernians or Shelbourne
Brondby (Den) v FBK Kaunas or Dinamo Tirana
Club Brugge (Blg) v Dinamo Bucharest (Rom)
F91 Dudelange or Vardar Skopje v Legia Warsaw (Pol)
Hammarby (Swe) v Partizan Belgrade (Yug)
Kyiv Dynamo (Ukr) v Tampere Utd or Pyunik Yerevan
Lillestrom (Nor) v Zeljeznicar or IA Akranes
Maccabi Haifa (Isr) v Portadown or Belshina Bobruisk
Maribor (Sln) v Flora Tallinn or APOEL Nicosia
MSK Zilina (Slk) v Basle (Swi)
Serif Tiraspol or Zhenis Astana v Grazer AK (Aut)
Skonto Riga or Barry Town v Levski Sofia (Bul)
Sparta Prague (Cze) v Torpedo Kutaisi or B36 Torshavn
Zalaegerszeg (Hun) v Zagreb (Cro)

1st legs, July 31; 2nd legs, August 7

Direct 3rd qual rnd qualifiers

AEK Athens (Gre), Auxerre (Fra), Barcelona (Spa), Bayern Munich (Ger), Celtic (Sco), Fenerbahce (Tur), Feyenoord (Hol), Genk (Blg), Internazionale (Ita), Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus), Manchester United (Eng), Milan (Ita), Newcastle United (Eng), Rosenborg (Nor), Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr), Slovan Liberec (Cze), Sporting Lisbon (Por), Sturm Graz (Aut).

Direct group stage qualifiers

Ajax (Hol), Arsenal (Eng), Bayer Leverkusen (Ger), Borussia Dortmund (Ger), Deportivo La Coruna (Spa), Galatasaray (Tur), Juventus (Ita), Lens (Fra), Liverpool (Eng), Lyon (Fra), Moscow Spartak (Rus), Olympiakos (Gre), PSV Eindhoven (Hol), Real Madrid (Spa), Roma (Ita), Valencia (Spa).

UEFA CUP

Qual rnd draw

Aberdeen (Sco) v Nistru Otaci (Mol)
AIK Stockholm (Swe) v IBV Vestmannaeyjar (Ice)
Amica Wronki (Pol) v TNS Llansantfraid (Wal)
Anorthosis Famagusta (Cyp) v Grevenmacher (Lux)
Atyrau (Kaz) v Matador Puchov (Slk)
Avenir Beggen (Lux) v Ipswich Town (Eng)
Bangor City (Wal) v Sartid (Yug)
Brann Bergen (Nor) v Suduva (Lit)
FC Copenhagen (Den) v Lokomotiv Tbilisi (Geo)
Dinamo Minsk (Bls) v CSKA Sofia (Bul)
Dinamo Tbilisi (Geo) v TVMK Tallinn (Est)
Domagnano (SaM) v Viktoria Zizkov (Cze)
Encamp (And) v Zenit St Petersburg (Rus)
Ferencvaros (Hun) v AEL Limassol (Cyp)
Fylkir (Ice) v Excelsior Mouscron (Blg)
Glentoran (NI) v Wisla Krakow (Pol)
Gomel (Bls) v HJK Helsinki (Fin)
Hajduk Split (Cro) v Gl Gotu (Far)
Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) v Partizani (Alb)
Kairat Almaty (Kaz) v Red Star Belgrade (Yug)
Kl Klaksvik (Far) v Ujpest (Hun)
Koba Senec (Slk) v Siroki Brijeg (Bos)
Leixoes (Por) v Belasica (Mac)
Levadia Tallinn (Est) v Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr)
Litex Lovech (Bul) v Atlantas (Lit)
Metalurgs Liepaja (Lat) v Karnten (Aut)
Metalurh Zaporizhzhya (Ukr) v Birkirkara (Mlt)
MyPa (Fin) v OB Odense (Den)
Pobeda Prilep (Mac) v Midtjylland (Den)
Primorje (Sln) v Zvartnots (Arm)
Rapid Bucharest (Rom) v HIT Gorica (Sln)
Shamrock Rovers (Ire) v Djurgardens (Swe)
Sigma Olomouc (Cze) v Sarajevo (Bos)
Sliema Wanderers (Mlt) v Polonia Warsaw (Pol)
Spartak Yerevan (Arm) v Servette (Swi)
Stabaek (Nor) v Linfield (NI)
SK Tirana (Alb) v National Bucharest (Rom)
Vaduz (Lie) v Livingston (Sco)*
Varteks (Cro) v Dundalk (Ire)
Ventspils (Lat) v Lugano (Swi)
Zimbru Chisinau (Mol) v IFK Gothenburg (Swe)

*1st legs, August 15 (*August 13);*
2nd legs, August 29

Direct 1st rnd qualifiers

Alaves (Spa), Anderlecht (Blg), Ankaragucu (Tur), Austria Wien (Aut), Besiktas (Tur), Blackburn Rovers (Eng), Bordeaux (Fra), Celta Vigo (Spa), Chelsea (Eng), Chievo (Ita), CSKA Moscow (Rus), Denizlispor (Tur), Dinamo Zagreb (Cro), Grasshopper (Swi), Heerenveen (Hol), Hertha Berlin (Ger), Iraklis (Gre), Kocaelispor (Tur), Lazio (Ita), Leeds United (Eng), Lorient (Fra), Metalurh Donetsk (Ukr), Panathinaikos (Gre), PAOK Salonika (Gre), Paris Saint-Germain (Fra), Parma (Ita), FC Porto (Por), Rangers (Sco), Real Betis (Spa), Schalke (Ger), Slavia Prague (Cze), Utrecht (Hol), Viking Stavanger (Nor), Vitesse Arnhem (Hol), Werder Bremen (Ger), Xanthi (Gre).

INTERTOTO CUP

1st rnd, 1st legs

June 22: BATE Borisov (Bls) 1 AB Copenhagen (Den) 0; Cementarnica (Mac) 1 FH Hafnarfjordur (Ice) 3; Coleraine (NI) 5 Sant Julia (And) 0; Constructorul (Mol) 0 Synot (Cze) 0; Kispest-Honved (Hun) 0 Zalgiris Vilnius (Lit) 1; Lokeren (Blg) 3 WIT Georgia (Geo) 1; Marek (Bul) 2 Caersws (Wal) 0; Paralimni (Cyp) 0 Bregenz (Aut) 2; Rijeka (Cro) 3 St Patrick's Athletic (Ire) 2; Santa Clara (Por) 2 Shirak Gyumri (Arm) 0; St Gallen (Swi) 5 B68 Toftir (Far) 1; Trencin (Slk) 3 Slaven Belupo (Cro) 1; *Uniao Leiria (Por) 0 Levadia Maardu (Est) 3; Valletta (Mlt) 1 Teuta (Alb) 2; Zurich (Swi) 7 Brotnjo (Bos) 0.
**Game awarded 3-0 to Levadia Maardu because Leiria fielded an ineligible player; original tie finished 1-0 to Leiria.*
June 23: Brno (Cze) 0 SC Ashdod (Isr) 5; Gloria Bistrita (Rom) 2 Union Luxembourg (Lux) 0; Helsingborgs (Swe) 1 Koper (Sln) 0; Obilic (Yug) 1 FC Haka (Fin) 2; Zaglebie Lubin (Pol) 1 Dinaburg (Lat) 1.

1st rnd, 2nd legs

June 29: AB 0 BATE Borisov 2 *BATE 3-0 on agg*; B68 Toftir 0 St Gallen 6 *St Gallen 11-1 on agg*; Bregenz 3 Paralimni 1 *Bregenz 5-1 on agg*; Brotnjo 2 Zurich 1 *Zurich 8-2 on agg*; Caersws 1 Marek 1 *Marek 3-1 on agg*; FH Hafnarfjordur 1 Cementarnica 2 *FH 4-3 on agg*; Koper 0 Helsingborgs 0 *Helsingborgs 1-0 on agg*; Levadia Maardu 1 Uniao Leiria 2 *Levadia 4-2 on agg*; Sant Julia 2 Coleraine 2 *Coleraine 7-2 on agg*; SC Ashdod 1 Brno 1 *Ashdod 6-1 on agg*; Slaven Belupo 5 Trencin 0 *Slaven 6-3 on agg*; Teuta 0 Valletta 0 *Teuta 2-1 on agg*; Union Luxembourg 0 Gloria Bistrita 0 *Gloria 2-0 on agg*; WIT Georgia 3 Lokeren 2 *Lokeren 5-4 on agg*; Zalgiris Vilnius 0 Kispest-Honved 0 *Zalgiris 1-0 on agg.*
June 30: Dinaburg 1 Zaglebie Lubin 0 *Dinaburg 2-1 on agg*; FC Haka 1 Obilic 1 *Haka 3-2 on agg*; Shirak Gyumri 3 Santa Clara 3 *Santa Clara 5-3 on agg*; St Patrick's Athletic 1 Rijeka 0 *Agg 3-3. St Patrick's on away goals*; Synot 4 Constructorul 0 *Synot 4-0 on agg.*

2nd rnd, 1st legs

July 6: Coleraine 1 Troyes (Fra) 2; Fulham (Eng) 0 FC Haka 0; Gent (Blg) 2 St Patrick's Athletic 0; Gloria Bistrita 3 Teuta 0; Kryliya Sovetov (Rus) 3 Dinaburg 0; SC Ashdod 1 Marek 1; Slaven Belupo 2 Belenenses (Por) 0; Sochaux (Fra) 2 Zalgiris Vilnius 0; Villarreal (Spa) 2 FH Hafnarfjordur 0; Willem II (Hol) 1 St Gallen 0; Zurich 1 Levadia Maardu 0.
July 7: 1860 Munich (Ger) 0 BATE Borisov 1; Stuttgart (Ger) 2 Lokeren 0; Synot 4 Helsingborgs 0; Teplice (Cze) 5 Santa Clara 1; Torino (Ita) 1 Bregenz 0.

2nd rnd, 2nd legs

July 13: Bregenz 1 Torino 1 *Torino 2-1 on agg*; Dinaburg 0 Kryliya Sovetov 1 *Kryliya Sovetov 4-0 on agg*; FH Hafnarfjordur 2 Villarreal 2 *Villarreal 4-2 on agg*; Levadia Maardu 0 Zurich 0 *Zurich 1-0 on agg*; Lokeren 0 Stuttgart 1 *Stuttgart 3-0 on agg*; Marek 1 SC Ashdod 0 *Marek 2-1 on agg*; Santa Clara 1 Teplice 4 *Teplice 9-2 on agg*; St Gallen 1 Willem II 1 *Willem II 2-1 on agg*; St Patrick's Athletic 3 Gent 1 *Agg 3-3. Gent on away goals*; Teuta 1 Gloria Bistrita 0 *Gloria 3-1 on agg*; Troyes 2 Coleraine 1 *Troyes 4-2 on agg.*
July 14: BATE Borisov 4 1860 Munich 0 *BATE Borisov 5-0 on agg*; Belenenses 0 Slaven Belupo 1 *Slaven 3-0 on agg*; FC Haka 1 Fulham 1 *Agg 1-1. Fulham on away goals*; Helsingborgs 2 Synot 0 *Synot 4-2 on agg*; Zalgiris Vilnius 1 Sochaux 2 *Sochaux 4-1 on agg.*

AUSTRIA

July 9: Austria Wien 2 SV Ried 0.
July 10: Bregenz 2 Grazer AK 2; Pasching 3 Karnten 0; Sturm Graz 0 Rapid Wien 4; Admira 1 Salzburg 0.
July 16: Karnten 1 Austria Wien 1.
July 17: Grazer AK 0 Pasching 2; Rapid Wien 1 Admira 2; SV Ried 1 Bregenz 1; Salzburg 1 Sturm Graz 2.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pasching	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Admira	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Austria Wien	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Rapid Wien	2	1	0	1	5	2	3
Sturm Graz	2	1	0	1	2	5	3
Bregenz	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Grazer AK	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
SV Ried	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Karnten	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Salzburg	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

BULGARIA

CHAMPIONSHIP POOL

May 25: Naftex 2 Slavia 2; Lokomotiv Plovdiv 0 Lovech 2.
May 26: CSKA 1 Levski 0.
May 30: Slavia 1 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 0; Lovech 1 CSKA 0; Levski 3 Naftex 0.

BULGARIA: CHAMP'SHIP POOL – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski	36	27	7	2	77	27	56
Lovech	36	23	8	5	66	34	50
CSKA	36	19	7	10	60	29	38
Lok Plovdiv	36	18	6	12	48	41	34
Slavia	36	14	8	14	42	48	32
Naftex	36	14	9	13	44	40	30

Points total was halved after regular season (26 rounds). All other totals carried forward in full.

HUNGARY

Apr 5: Kispest-Honved 1 Zalaegerszeg 0.
Apr 6: Dunaferr 0 Ferencvaros 1; Videoton 4 Vasas 1; Matav 2 Gyor 2; Ujpest 2 MTK 0; Haladas 1 Debrecen 0.
Apr 10: Gyor 1 Videoton 1; Zalaegerszeg 1 Ujpest 1; Debrecen 0 Kispest-Honved 0; Vasas 2 Dunaferr 4; Ferencvaros 5 Haladas 0; MTK 1 Matav 0.
Apr 13: Ferencvaros 0 Debrecen 1; Haladas 2 Vasas 2; Dunaferr 2 Gyor 1; Videoton 2 MTK 3; Matav 2 Zalaegerszeg 0; Ujpest 4 Kispest-Honved 0.
Apr 20: Gyor 1 Haladas 0; Vasas 0 Ferencvaros 0; Kispest-Honved 1 Matav 0; Zalaegerszeg 3 Videoton 1; MTK 1 Dunaferr 4; Debrecen 1 Ujpest 1.
Apr 23: Haladas 3 MTK 0.
Apr 24: Vasas 1 Debrecen 0; Ferencvaros 4 Gyor 0; Dunaferr 1 Zalaegerszeg 2; Videoton 1 Kispest-Honved 2; Matav 3 Ujpest 1.
Apr 27: Gyor 2 Vasas 1; Ujpest 2 Videoton 3; Zalaegerszeg 2 Haladas 2; MTK 0 Ferencvaros 1; Debrecen 0 Matav 0.
Apr 28: Kispest-Honved 0 Dunaferr 3.
May 3: Matav 2 Vasas 2.
May 4: Ujpest 1 Zalaegerszeg 2; Ferencvaros 1 MTK 0; Videoton 2 Dunaferr 1; Gyor 2 Kispest-Honved 2; Debrecen 2 Haladas 2.
May 10: Haladas 0 Gyor 0.
May 11: Ujpest 1 Dunaferr 2; Videoton 1 Ferencvaros 2; MTK 2 Zalaegerszeg 4; Debrecen 6 Vasas 3; Matav 3 Kispest-Honved 3.
May 18: Ujpest 3 Ferencvaros 2; Zalaegerszeg 3 Dunaferr 1; MTK 2 Videoton 1; Vasas 1 Gyor 1; Matav 1 Debrecen 1; Kispest-Honved 1 Haladas 1.
May 22: Dunaferr 5 MTK 1; Zalaegerszeg 1 Ferencvaros 1; Videoton 5 Ujpest 0; Kispest-Honved 2 Debrecen 0; Gyor 0 Matav 0; Vasas 2 Haladas 1.
May 25: Ferencvaros 2 Dunaferr 0; Videoton 2 Zalaegerszeg 1; MTK 1 Ujpest 2; Debrecen 4 Gyor 0; Matav 1 Haladas 3; Kispest-Honved 3 Vasas 1.

Division split into two halves after 33 rounds. Final five games played against teams in own pool. All points and goals carried forward

HUNGARY: CHAMPIONSHIP POOL – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zalaegerszeg	5	3	1	1	76	47	71
Ferencvaros	5	3	1	1	66	39	69
MTK	5	1	0	4	62	47	67
Dunaferr	5	2	0	3	71	47	59
Videoton	5	3	0	2	56	53	55
Ujpest	5	2	0	3	65	69	50

HUNGARY: RELEGATION POOL – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kispest-Honved	5	2	3	0	51	70	47
Matav	5	0	4	1	54	60	44
Debrecen	5	2	2	1	47	53	44
Gyor	5	0	4	1	48	64	42
Haladas	5	1	3	1	48	68	41
Vasas	5	1	2	2	51	78	32

NORWAY

May 25: Valerenga 0 Rosenborg 0.
May 26: Bodo/Glimt 0 Lillestrom 1; Brann 1 Odd Grenland 3; Bryne 0 Moss 0; Sogndal 0 Viking 2; Start 0 Molde 4.
May 27: Stabaek 5 Lyn 0.
June 2: Lillestrom 1 Stabaek 2; Lyn 1 Sogndal 0; Molde 2 Valerenga 0; Moss 0 Start 2; Odd Grenland 3 Bryne 1; Rosenborg 4 Bodo/Glimt 3; Viking 4 Brann 1.
June 8: Sogndal 5 Lillestrom 2.
June 9: Bodo/Glimt 0 Molde 2; Brann 1 Lyn 1; Bryne 3 Start 1; Odd Grenland 2 Viking 0; Stabaek 0 Rosenborg 0.
June 10: Valerenga 3 Moss 1.
June 15: Bryne 3 Viking 3.
June 16: Lillestrom 0 Brann 1; Lyn 3 Odd Grenland 0; Molde 1 Stabaek 0; Moss 1 Bodo/Glimt 0; Rosenborg 3 Sogndal 0; Start 2 Valerenga 7.
June 22: Odd Grenland 3 Lillestrom 1.
June 30: Bodo/Glimt 2 Valerenga 2; Brann 4 Molde 1; Lyn 1 Bryne 0; Odd Grenland 1 Rosenborg 3; Sogndal 0 Moss 4; Stabaek 5 Start 2; Viking 3 Lillestrom 1.

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lyn	13	10	1	2	21	14	31
Molde	13	8	2	3	24	12	26
Odd Grenland	14	8	1	5	23	18	25
Rosenborg	13	7	3	3	26	14	24
Stabaek	13	6	4	3	24	15	22
Viking	13	6	4	3	26	18	22
Valerenga	13	5	5	3	24	15	20
Brann	13	5	2	6	19	23	17
Bodo/Glimt	13	4	3	6	18	17	15
Lillestrom	14	3	4	7	13	20	13
Moss	13	3	4	6	15	23	13
Bryne	13	3	3	7	15	23	12
Sogndal	13	2	2	9	15	32	8
Start	13	1	4	8	13	32	7

ROMANIA

May 25: Arges 1 Farul 1; Gloria 2 Astra 1; Brasov 5 UM Timisoara 1; Ceahlaul 1 Rapid 0; Otelul 2 U Craiova 1; National 2 Bacau 1; Petrolul 1 Dinamo 2; Steaua 1 Sportul 2.
June 1: Astra 1 Steaua 1; Bacau 2 Gloria 0; U Craiova 2 National 1; Dinamo 4 Brasov 0; Farul 2 Petrolul 1; Rapid 2 Otelul 1; Sportul 3 Arges 3; UM Timisoara 0 Ceahlaul 1.

ROMANIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	30	17	9	4	63	33	60
National	30	16	10	4	44	20	58
Rapid*	30	15	6	9	50	31	50
Steaua	30	15	5	10	47	31	50
Otelul	30	14	7	9	34	24	49
Bacau	30	14	4	12	43	40	46
U Craiova	30	12	8	10	40	35	44
Ceahlaul	30	13	4	13	35	36	43
Gloria	30	13	2	15	29	41	41
Arges	30	11	7	12	36	39	40
Brasov	30	10	9	11	32	34	39
Astra	30	9	10	11	29	28	37
Sportul	30	9	7	14	40	53	34
Farul	30	8	8	14	32	44	32
Petrolul	30	5	10	15	29	48	25
UM Timisoara	30	3	6	21	24	70	15

**1pt deducted for non-completion of fixture, reduced from 5pts on appeal*

RUSSIA

July 1: CSKA 2 Shinnik 0; Dinamo 1 Uralan 0; Anzhi 0 Lokomotiv M 0.
July 2: Torpedo M 0 Rostselmash 1; Rotor 2 Kryliya Sovetov 0; Zenit 2 Alaniya 1; Sokol 0 Saturn 0.
July 3: Torpedo-ZIL 0 Spartak 2.
July 5: Lokomotiv M 1 Uralan 0.
July 9: Lokomotiv M 0 CSKA 0; Shinnik 6 Anzhi 0; Rostselmash 0 Rotor 3; Kryliya Sovetov 1 Torpedo M 0; Uralan 1 Sokol 1; Alaniya 5 Torpedo-ZIL 2; Saturn 0 Dinamo 3.
July 10: Spartak 4 Zenit 3.
July 15: Dinamo 0 Spartak 1.
July 16: Torpedo M 2 Lokomotiv M 2; Anzhi 4 Rostselmash 1; Rotor 2 Shinnik 0; Zenit 1 Saturn 2; Torpedo-ZIL 2 Uralan 2; Sokol 1 Alaniya 1.
July 17: CSKA 2 Kryliya Sovetov 0.

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lokomotiv M	16	10	5	1	24	8	35
CSKA	14	10	2	2	27	11	32
Spartak	15	9	2	4	27	20	29
Saturn	15	7	4	4	20	18	25
Kryliya Sovetov	15	7	3	5	19	17	24
Rotor	15	7	3	5	15	13	24
Dinamo	15	7	1	7	18	14	22
Shinnik	15	6	3	6	23	21	21
Zenit	14	6	3	5	19	17	21
Uralan	15	3	8	4	19	19	17
Anzhi	15	3	7	5	14	24	16
Torpedo M	15	3	5	7	18	19	14
Torpedo-ZIL	15	3	5	7	12	24	14
Alaniya	15	3	3	9	20	27	12
Rostselmash	14	3	3	8	14	27	12
Sokol	15	1	5	9	7	17	8

SWEDEN

July 2: Helsingborgs 2 AIK 1.
July 3: Kalmar 0 IFK Gothenburg 1; Orgryte 1 Orebro 1.
July 4: Hammarby 1 Landskrona 2; Norrkoping 0 Sundsvall 0; Malmo 2 Halmstads 1.
July 5: Djurgardens 1 Elfsborg 1.
July 7: Sundsvall 0 Kalmar 1; Malmo 4 Orebro 1.
July 8: Elfsborg 1 Hammarby 2; IFK Gothenburg 1 Halmstads 0; Landskrona 2 AIK 3.
July 9: Djurgardens 2 Orgryte 3.
July 10: Norrkoping 1 Helsingborgs 0.
July 14: AIK 1 Orebro 1; Malmo 0 Sundsvall 2; Orgryte 3 Norrkoping 2.
July 15: Hammarby 1 Djurgardens 2; Kalmar 1 Elfsborg 1.
July 16: Halmstads 1 Landskrona 1.
July 18: Helsingborgs 2 IFK Gothenburg 1.

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Orgryte	10	6	3	1	19	14	21
Landskrona	10	5	4	1	24	13	19
Malmo	10	6	0	4	20	13	18
IFK Gothenburg	10	5	1	4	12	10	16
Helsingborgs	10	5	1	4	14	15	16
Djurgardens	10	4	3	3	17	14	15
Sundsvall	10	3	4	3	9	8	13
Orebro	10	3	4	3	10	14	13
AIK	10	2	4	4	15	19	10
Elfsborg	10	2	4	4	8	12	10
Kalmar	10	2	4	4	4	10	10
Halmstads	10	1	6	3	8	10	9
Hammarby	10	2	3	5	17	21	9
Norrkoping	10	2	3	5	7	11	9

SWITZERLAND

July 3: St Gallen 0 Zurich 3.
July 6: Aarau 0 Basle 1; Grasshopper 4 Wil 1900 1; Neuchatel Xamax 2 Thun 1; Young Boys 2 Lucerne 2.
July 7: Delemont 2 Servette 0.
July 10: Servette 2 St Gallen 0; Lucerne 3 Delemont 0; Zurich 1 Grasshopper 2.
July 13: Wil 1900 4 Aarau 0; Thun 3 Young Boys 4; Basle 1 Neuchatel Xamax 1.
July 16: Zurich 3 Servette 1.
July 17: Aarau 2 Grasshopper 3; Delemont 0 Thun 1; Neuchatel Xamax 1 Wil 1900 1; St Gallen 5 Lucerne 0; Young Boys 1 Basle 1.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grasshopper	3	3	0	0	9	4	9
Zurich	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
Young Boys	3	1	2	0	7	6	5
Neuchatel Xamax	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Basle	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Wil 1900	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
Lucerne	3	1	1	1	5	7	4
St Gallen	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
Thun	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
Servette	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Delemont	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Aarau	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

UKRAINE

2001-02

May 25: Zakarpattya 1 Metalurh M 0; Vorskla 2 Tavriya 0; Kryvbas 0 Metalurh Z 0; Karpaty 0 Metalist 2; Metalurh D 2 Arsenal 1.
May 30: Dynamo 1 Dnipro 0; Poligraftekhnika 1 Shakhtar 2.
June 3: Shakhtar 2 Dynamo 0; Arsenal 2 Poligraftekhnika 0; Metalist 3 Metalurh D 1; Metalurh Z 4 Karpaty 1; Tavriya 3 Kryvbas 2; Vorskla 2 Metalurh M 1; Dnipro 2 Zakarpattya 0.
June 7: Metalurh M 0 Dynamo 6; Metalurh D 1 Poligraftekhnika 0; Dnipro 0 Shakhtar 1.
June 11: Poligraftekhnika 0 Dynamo 3; Zakarpattya 0 Shakhtar 1; Dnipro 2 Vorskla 0; Metalurh M 3 Kryvbas 1; Karpaty 0 Tavriya 0; Metalurh D 1 Metalurh Z 1; Arsenal 1 Metalist 1.

UKRAINE: 2001-02 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shakhtar	26	20	6	0	49	10	66
Dynamo	26	20	5	1	62	9	65
Metalurh D	26	12	6	8	38	28	42
Dnipro	26	11	7	8	30	20	40
Metalurh Z	26	11	7	8	25	22	40
Metalist	26	11	7	8	35	36	40
Tavriya	26	8	6	12	27	36	30
Karpaty	26	7	8	11	19	31	29
Kryvbas	26	6	10	10	28	40	28
Metalurh M	26	6	7	13	28	42	25
Vorskla	26	6	7	13	19	33	25
Arsenal	26	6	5	15	18	28	23
Poligraftekhnika	26	5	8	13	21	39	23
Zakarpattya	26	6	5	15	23	48	23

2002-03

July 7: Chornomorets 0 Kryvbas 2; Dnipro 2 Volyn-1 0; Metalist 0 Dynamo 2; Metalurh D 2 Obolon 1; Arsenal 0 Shakhtar 0; Poligraftekhnika 0 Karpaty 0; Metalurh M 4 Vorskla 1; Tavriya 1 Metalurh Z 1.
July 12: Karpaty 1 Metalurh Z 0; Shakhtar 5 Tavriya 2; Dynamo 3 Arsenal 1; Volyn-1 2 Metalist 0; Kryvbas 1 Dnipro 1; Vorskla 1 Chornomorets 2; Poligraftekhnika 0 Metalurh D 2.
July 13: Obolon 0 Metalurh M 0.
July 17: Tavriya 1 Dynamo 2; Metalurh M 1 Poligraftekhnika 1; Metalurh D 1 Karpaty 1; Chornomorets 0 Obolon 2; Dnipro 1 Vorskla 0; Metalist 2 Kryvbas 1; Arsenal 8 Volyn-1 1; Metalurh Z 0 Shakhtar 1.

UKRAINE: 2002-03

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo	3	3	0	0	7	2	9
Shakhtar	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Metalurh D	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Dnipro	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Metalurh M	3	1	2	0	5	2	5
Karpaty	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
Arsenal	3	1	1	1	9	4	4
Kryvbas	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Obolon	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Chornomorets	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Metalist	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Volyn-1	3	1	0	2	3	10	3
Poligraftekhnika	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
Metalurh Z	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
Tavriya	3	0	1	2	4	8	1
Vorskla	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

YUGOSLAVIA

May 24: Rad 1 Rudar P 2; Zvezdara 0 Partizan 4.
May 25: Cukaricki 1 Zeleznik 2; Mladost A 0 Sutjeska 1; Obilic 2 Radnicki K 1; OFK 2 Mladost L 1; Red Star 1 Zeta 1; Sartid 2 Zemun 1; Vojvodina 0 Hajduk K 0.
June 1: Partizan 2 Obilic 1; Zeleznik 4 Red Star 2; Zeta 1 Rad 0; Rudar P 0 Sartid 1; Radnicki K 1 Sutjeska 2; Cukaricki 6 Mladost A 0; Zemun 2 Vojvodina 2; Hajduk K 3 OFK 2; Mladost L 6 Zvezdara 1.
June 5: Mladost A 1 Radnicki K 0; Sutjeska 1 Partizan 7; Obilic 4 Mladost L 2; Zvezdara 1 Hajduk K 1; OFK 0 Zemun 2; Vojvodina 3 Rudar P 0; Sartid 0 Zeta 2; Rad 2 Zeleznik 0; Red Star 3 Cukaricki 2.

YUGOSLAVIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan	34	25	6	3	85	33	81
Red Star	34	18	12	4	54	28	66
Sartid	34	17	7	10	46	36	58
Obilic	34	16	8	10	52	41	56
Zeta	34	15	7	12	48	50	52
Zeleznik	34	14	7	13	41	42	49
Rudar P	34	13	8	13	35	33	47
Vojvodina	34	10	16	8	34	26	46
OFK	34	12	10	12	44	37	46
Rad	34	13	7	14	45	41	46
Sutjeska	34	14	4	16	32	45	46
Zemun	34	12	9	13	49	43	45
Hajduk K	34	12	9	13	38	42	45
Cukaricki	34	12	7	15	40	40	43
Mladost L	34	12	6	16	42	42	42
Zvezdara	34	7	8	19	35	64	29
Mladost A	34	4	12	18	26	64	24
Radnicki K	34	6	5	23	25	64	23

SOUTH AMERICA

LIBERTADORES CUP

Semi-finals, 1st legs

July 9

Sao Caetano (Bra) 2 (Somalia 25, Adaozinho pen 41)
America (Mex) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Aquino (Par)
Sao Caetano: Silvio Luiz - Russo, Daniel, Dininho, Marcos Senna, Rubens Cardoso, Robert (Jean Carlos 74), Ailton (Marlon 80), Somalia, Anailson (Serginho 46), Adaozinho. *Sent off: Russo 90min.*
America: J A Rios - Castro, Lopez, Davino, Salinas, Pardo, Veiga Goncalves (Zamorano 59), Patino, Villa (Lara 46), Navia, Ortiz (Castillo 46). *Sent off: Navia 90min.*

July 10

Olimpia (Par) 3 (Orteman 27, 56, M A Benitez 62)
Gremio (Bra) 2 (Anderson Lima 13, Rodrigo Mendes 85)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Chandia (Chl)
Olimpia: Tavarelli - Isasi, Zelaya, Da Silva, Caceres, Enciso, Quintana, Baez, M A Benitez (Caballero 90), Orteman (Esteche 74), Cordoba (Estigarribia 69).
Gremio: Eduardo - Anderson Lima, Anderson Polga, Roger, Tinga, Fernando (Adriano 64), Rodrigo Mendes, Zinho, Pedrinho (Grafite 79), Claudiomiro, Fabio Baiano (Rodrigo Fabbri 71).

Semi-finals, 2nd legs

July 16

America 1 (Pardo 48)
Sao Caetano 1 (Ailton 8)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ruiz (Col)
Sao Caetano 3-1 on agg
America: J A Rios - Castro, Rojas, Davino, Salinas (Mendoza 46), Pardo, Veiga Goncalves, Ortiz (Hernandez 46), Castillo, Zamorano, Patino.
Sao Caetano: Silvio Luiz - Marlon, Daniel, Dininho, Marcos Senna, Rubens Cardoso, Robert (Serginho 62), Ailton (Bruno Quadros 74), Somalia, Anailson (Wagner 84), Adaozinho.

July 17

Gremio 1 (Zinho 44)
Olimpia 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Gimenez (Arg)
Agg 3-3. Olimpia 5-4 on penalties
Gremio: Eduardo - Anderson Lima, Anderson Polga, Roger, Gilberto (Rodrigo Fabbri 70), Tinga (Fernando 85), Zinho, Pedrinho, Claudiomiro, Grafite (Fabio Baiano 80), Luis Mario.
Olimpia: Tavarelli - Isasi, Zelaya, Da Silva, Caceres, Enciso, Quintana, Baez (Caballero 74), M A Benitez (Lopez 67), Cordoba (Franco 63), Orteman. *Sent off: Quintana 60min.*

BOLIVIA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Mar 24: Iberoamericana 6 Guabira 0; Oriente 4 Union Central 1; Real Potosi 3 Blooming 2; San Jose 1 The Strongest 5; Jorge Wilstermann 2 Independiente 0.
Mar 30: Independiente 2 Oriente 0.
Mar 31: Blooming 1 Iberoamericana 0; Bolivar 2 San Jose 0; Guabira 1 The Strongest 0; Mariscal Braun 0 Jorge Wilstermann 2; Union Central 3 Real Potosi 0.
Apr 3: Bolivar 6 Mariscal Braun 1.
Apr 6: Iberoamericana 1 Union Central 0; Real Potosi 4 Independiente 1.
Apr 7: San Jose 3 Guabira 1; The Strongest 2 Blooming 1; Jorge Wilstermann 2 Bolivar 3.
Apr 14: Blooming 3 Guabira 1; Bolivar 4 Oriente 1; Independiente 1 Iberoamericana 1; Mariscal Braun 1 Real Potosi 1; Union Central 1 The Strongest 1; Jorge Wilstermann 2 San Jose 2.
Apr 20: The Strongest 2 Independiente 0.
Apr 21: Guabira 0 Union Central 1; Iberoamericana 2 Mariscal Braun 1; Oriente 2 Jorge Wilstermann 1; Real Potosi 2 Bolivar 3; San Jose 6 Blooming 0.
Apr 24: Independiente 1 Union Central 2.
Apr 28: Bolivar 4 Iberoamericana 0; Union Central 1 Blooming 1; Oriente 2 San Jose 1; Mariscal Braun 0 The Strongest 1; Independiente 3 Guabira 1; Jorge Wilstermann 5 Real Potosi 0.
May 1: Blooming 3 Independiente 1; Real Potosi 5 Oriente 5; San Jose 3 Union Central 3; The Strongest 3 Bolivar 2.
May 2: Iberoamericana 2 Jorge Wilstermann 1; Guabira 2 Mariscal Braun 1.
May 4: Iberoamericana 2 Oriente 0.
May 5: Blooming 4 Mariscal Braun 0; Guabira 0 Bolivar 0; Real Potosi 3 San Jose 2; The Strongest 2 Jorge Wilstermann 4; Union Central 4 Independiente 2.
May 8: Oriente 4 Mariscal Braun 2.
May 19: Mariscal Braun 1 Union Central 0; Real Potosi 1 Iberoamericana 2; San Jose 2 Independiente 3; Jorge Wilstermann 2 Guabira 2.
May 21: Oriente 2 The Strongest 1; Bolivar 4 Blooming 1.
May 25: The Strongest 1 Real Potosi 1.
May 26: Independiente 1 Mariscal Braun 1; Union Central 1 Bolivar 0; Blooming 4 Jorge Wilstermann 2; Guabira 0 Oriente 0; Iberoamericana 2 San Jose 1.
June 1: Bolivar 5 Independiente 0.
June 2: Iberoamericana 0 The Strongest 1; Real Potosi 4 Guabira 0; Oriente 0 Blooming 2; Jorge Wilstermann 2 Union Central 1; San Jose 2 Mariscal Braun 0.
June 8: Mariscal Braun 0 Bolivar 2.
June 9: Independiente 2 Jorge Wilstermann 2; Union Central 0 Oriente 2; Blooming 1 Real Potosi 0; Guabira 2 Iberoamericana 0; The Strongest 3 San Jose 1.
June 12: Iberoamericana 5 Blooming 1; Real Potosi 4 Union Central 2; Oriente 6 Independiente 0; Jorge Wilstermann 0 Mariscal Braun 0; San Jose 0 Bolivar 2.
June 13: The Strongest 2 Guabira 1.
June 16: Bolivar 2 Jorge Wilstermann 1; Mariscal Braun 3 Oriente 1; Independiente 2 Real Potosi 0; Union Central 2 Iberoamericana 1; Blooming 1 The Strongest 0; Guabira 0 San Jose 1.
June 22: Iberoamericana 0 Independiente 0.
June 23: Guabira 4 Blooming 1; The Strongest 2 Union Central 0; Real Potosi 6 Mariscal Braun 1; Oriente 4 Bolivar 1; San Jose 0 Jorge Wilstermann 1.
June 26: Bolivar 1 Real Potosi 0; Mariscal Braun 2 Iberoamericana 3; Union Central 0 Guabira 0; Blooming 4 San Jose 2.
July 2: Jorge Wilstermann 4 Oriente 2; Independiente 0 The Strongest 1.
July 6: The Strongest 3 Mariscal Braun 0.
July 7: Blooming 4 Union Central 1; Guabira 1 Independiente 0; Iberoamericana 3 Bolivar 0; Real Potosi 4 Jorge Wilstermann 3; San Jose 1 Oriente 1.
July 14: Oriente 6 Real Potosi 1; Jorge Wilstermann 2 Iberoamericana 1; Bolivar 2 The Strongest 1; Mariscal Braun 0 Guabira 1; Independiente 3 Blooming 2; Union Central 1 San Jose 0.

BOLIVIA: OPENING – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivar	22	16	1	5	56	23	49
The Strongest	22	13	3	6	37	23	42
Oriente	22	12	3	7	61	35	39
Blooming	22	12	1	9	43	45	37
J Wilstermann	22	10	5	7	46	35	35
Iberoamericana	22	10	2	10	33	32	32
Union Central	22	8	5	9	29	34	29
Real Potosi	22	8	4	10	45	49	28
Guabira	22	8	4	10	23	44	28
Independiente	22	6	5	11	25	42	23
San Jose	22	6	4	12	35	40	22
Mariscal Braun	22	3	3	16	17	48	12

CHILE

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Mar 23: Palestino 0 Rangers 0; U Catolica 2 San Felipe 1; Coquimbo Unido 3 Dep Temuco 0; Union Espanola 4 Huachipato 1.
Mar 24: Colo Colo 3 Audax Italiano 0; Dep Concepcion 0 Santiago Wanderers 3; Cobreloa 3 Santiago Morning 3; Cobresal 3 U de Chile 2.
Mar 30: U de Chile 2 Union Espanola 0; Dep Temuco 3 U Catolica 3; San Felipe 2 Palestino 2; Rangers 3 Cobreloa 1.
Mar 31: Audax Italiano 1 Cobresal 1; Huachipato 3 Coquimbo Unido 1; Santiago Morning 2 Dep Concepcion 1; Santiago Wanderers 3 Colo Colo 1.
Apr 6: Palestino 2 Dep Temuco 2; U Catolica 2 Huachipato 2; Union Espanola 3 Cobresal 2.
Apr 7: Santiago Wanderers 2 Audax Italiano 1; Dep Concepcion 1 Rangers 0; Cobreloa 1 San Felipe 1; Coquimbo Unido 0 U de Chile 2.
Apr 8: Colo Colo 2 Santiago Morning 1.
Apr 13: San Felipe 3 Dep Concepcion 1; Cobresal 1 Coquimbo Unido 1; Audax Italiano 1 Union Espanola

0; Dep Temuco 3 Cobreloa 1.
Apr 14: U de Chile 1 U Catolica 1; Santiago Morning 0 Santiago Wanderers 1; Huachipato 2 Palestino 2; Rangers 2 Colo Colo 0.
Apr 20: Palestino 1 U de Chile 1; Colo Colo 3 San Felipe 1; Cobreloa 2 Huachipato 0.
Apr 21: U Catolica 7 Cobresal 0; Coquimbo Unido 1 Union Espanola 0; Dep Concepcion 1 Dep Temuco 2; Santiago Morning 2 Audax Italiano 0; Santiago Wanderers 1 Rangers 1.
Apr 27: Audax Italiano 2 Coquimbo Unido 1; Dep Temuco 1 Colo Colo 1; San Felipe 3 Santiago Wanderers 0.
Apr 28: Union Espanola 0 U Catolica 2; Cobresal 2 Palestino 3; U de Chile 4 Cobreloa 2; Huachipato 3 Dep Concepcion 1; Rangers 2 Santiago Morning 1.
May 4: Santiago Morning 0 San Felipe 1; Santiago Wanderers 3 Dep Temuco 2; Dep Concepcion 2 U de Chile 2; Palestino 4 Union Espanola 0.
May 5: Rangers 0 Audax Italiano 0; Colo Colo 1 Huachipato 1; Cobreloa 2 Cobresal 0; U Catolica 5 Coquimbo Unido 0.
May 11: San Felipe 2 Rangers 0; U de Chile 0 Colo Colo 3.
May 12: Audax Italiano 1 U Catolica 2; Dep Temuco 4 Santiago Morning 2; Cobresal 1 Dep Concepcion 2; Coquimbo Unido 0 Palestino 0; Huachipato 0 Santiago Wanderers 3; Union Espanola 3 Cobreloa 2.
May 18: Dep Concepcion 1 Union Espanola 0; San Felipe 2 Audax Italiano 2; Santiago Morning 5 Huachipato 2; Colo Colo 2 Cobresal 0.
May 19: Palestino 2 U Catolica 4; Cobreloa 4 Coquimbo Unido 0; Santiago Wanderers 3 U de Chile 3; Rangers 2 Dep Temuco 2.
May 25: Coquimbo Unido 2 Dep Concepcion 3.
May 26: Cobresal 0 Santiago Wanderers 0; Huachipato 1 Rangers 1; Dep Temuco 5 San Felipe 0.
May 27: Audax Italiano 2 Palestino 3; U Catolica 3 Cobreloa 3; Union Espanola 2 Colo Colo 3.
May 28: U de Chile 2 Santiago Morning 1.

GROUP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sant Wanderers	15	7	4	4	24	20	25
Huachipato	15	4	4	7	24	31	16
Sant Morning	15	4	3	8	23	25	15
Cobresal	15	3	3	9	19	36	12

GROUP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U Catolica	15	8	5	2	40	22	29
Palestino	15	6	8	1	29	21	26
Dep Temuco	15	6	5	4	33	27	23
Audax Italiano	15	6	3	6	18	21	21

GROUP C – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U de Chile	15	7	4	4	28	23	25
Rangers	15	6	6	3	21	15	24
Cobreloa	15	5	4	6	28	27	19
Dep Concepcion	15	4	2	9	18	28	14

GROUP D – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colo Colo	15	9	3	3	29	16	30
San Felipe	15	5	3	7	21	24	18
Coquimbo Unido	15	5	3	7	17	26	18
Union Espanola	15	4	2	9	17	27	14

Top three from each group qualified for play-offs

Play-offs

1st rnd

1st rnd only: best of two ties (aggregate score irrelevant); if level at one tie each, 2nd leg went to extra time – team scoring golden goal qualified; otherwise, penalties

1st legs
June 1: Huachipato 1 U Catolica 0; Coquimbo Unido 0 Palestino 2; Cobreloa 2 Santiago Wanderers 1.
June 2: Santiago Morning 0 Colo Colo 4; San Felipe 2 U de Chile 1; Dep Temuco 1 Rangers 2.

2nd legs
June 8: U de Chile 6 San Felipe 1 (aet; U de Chile on golden goal); Rangers 2 Dep Temuco 2 (aet; Rangers on golden goal); Colo Colo 6 Santiago Morning 2; Palestino 0 Coquimbo Unido 0.
June 9: U Catolica 3 Huachipato 0 (aet; U Catolica on golden goal); Santiago Wanderers 3 Cobreloa 1 (aet; Cobreloa 4-3 on pens).

Dep Temuco and Santiago Wanderers qualified for quarter-finals as best losers.

Quarter-finals

1st legs
June 11: Rangers 0 Palestino 0.
June 12: Dep Temuco 0 U Catolica 1; Cobreloa 2 Colo Colo 5.
June 13: Santiago Wanderers 3 U de Chile 3.

2nd legs
June 15: Palestino 1 Rangers 1 *Agg 1-1. Rangers on away goals*; U Catolica 2 Dep Temuco 2 *U Catolica 3-2 on agg.*
June 16: Colo Colo 2 Cobreloa 2 *Colo Colo 7-4 on agg*; U de Chile 2 Santiago Wanderers 1 *U de Chile 5-4 on agg.*

Semi-finals

1st legs
June 20: Rangers 2 Colo Colo 1; U de Chile 3 U Catolica 3.

2nd legs
June 22: Colo Colo 2 Rangers 2
Rangers 4-3 on agg.
June 23: U Catolica 2 U de Chile 1
U Catolica 5-4 on agg.

Final

1st leg - June 26 - Talca
Rangers 1 (Risso 90)
Universidad Catolica 1 (Perez 57)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Aros

2nd leg - June 30 - Santiago
Universidad Catolica 4 (Norambuena 45, 46, Perez 62, Mirosevic 73)
Rangers 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Chandia
Universidad win opening championship

COLOMBIA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Mar 23: America 2 Bucaramanga 0.
Mar 24: Envigado 2 Tulua 0; At Junior 3 Once Caldas 1; Indep Medellin 1 Indep Santa Fe 2; At Huila 2 Tolima 2; Millonarios 0 At Nacional 1; Dep Pasto 2 Magdalena 1; Pereira 2 Real Cartagena 1; Quindio 0 Dep Cali 3.
Mar 27: Once Caldas 2 Tulua 1.
Mar 31: Bucaramanga 1 Dep Cali 2; Real Cartagena 0 Quindio 0; Magdalena 2 Pereira 1; At Nacional 2 Dep Pasto 0; Tolima 0 Millonarios 0; Indep Santa Fe 3 At Huila 0; Once Caldas 1 Indep Medellin 0; Tulua 0 At Junior 0; America 1 Envigado 0.
Apr 3: Envigado 2 Bucaramanga 0; At Junior 0 America 0; Indep Medellin 1 Tulua 4; At Huila 2 Once Caldas 0; Millonarios 0 Indep Santa Fe 1; Dep Pasto 2 Tolima 0; Pereira 0 At Nacional 0; Quindio 3 Magdalena 1; Dep Cali 1 Real Cartagena 1.
Apr 7: Bucaramanga 3 Real Cartagena 0; Magdalena 3 Dep Cali 2; At Nacional 2 Quindio 2; Tolima 1 Pereira 2; Indep Santa Fe 1 Dep Pasto 1; Once Caldas 2 Millonarios 1; Tulua 2 At Huila 1; America 0 Indep Medellin 0; Envigado 1 At Junior 0.
Apr 14: At Junior 0 Bucaramanga 0; Indep Medellin 2 Envigado 2; At Huila 2 America 0; Millonarios 1 Tulua 0; Dep Pasto 1 Once Caldas 0; Pereira 0 Indep Santa Fe 0; Quindio 0 Tolima 0; Dep Cali 1 At Nacional 1; Real Cartagena 1 Magdalena 0.
Apr 17: Bucaramanga 2 Magdalena 1; At Nacional 1 Real Cartagena 0; Tolima 2 Dep Cali 2; Indep Santa Fe 2 Quindio 0; Once Caldas 1 Pereira 1; Tulua 1 Dep Pasto 0; America 2 Millonarios 0; Envigado 2 At Huila 1; At Junior 2 Indep Medellin 0.
Apr 20: Dep Pasto 2 America 1; Magdalena 2 At Nacional 0.
Apr 21: Indep Medellin 2 Bucaramanga 0; At Huila 1 At Junior 2; Millonarios 2 Envigado 0; Pereira 1 Tulua 0; Quindio 1 Once Caldas 2; Dep Cali 3 Indep Santa Fe 0; Real Cartagena 1 Tolima 0.
Apr 24: Bucaramanga 1 At Nacional 1; Tolima 0 Magdalena 1; Indep Santa Fe 4 Real Cartagena 0; Once Caldas 2 Dep Cali 2; Tulua 0 Quindio 0; America 0 Pereira 0; Envigado 1 Dep Pasto 1; At Junior 1 Millonarios 0; Indep Medellin 3 At Huila 0.
Apr 28: At Huila 1 Bucaramanga 1; Millonarios 2 Indep Medellin 2; Dep Pasto 1 At Junior 0; Pereira 0 Envigado 1; Quindio 1 America 0; Dep Cali 2 Tulua 0; Real Cartagena 1 Once Caldas 2; Magdalena 1 Indep Santa Fe 1; At Nacional 2 Tolima 1.
May 1: At Huila 0 Millonarios 0; At Junior 0 Pereira 2; Indep Santa Fe 0 At Nacional 2; Once Caldas 2 Magdalena 0; Indep Medellin 2 Dep Pasto 4; Envigado 1 Quindio 1; America 0 Dep Cali 3; Bucaramanga 2 Tolima 0; Tulua 1 Real Cartagena 1.
May 5: Dep Cali 0 Envigado 0; Millonarios 1 Bucaramanga 1; Tolima 0 Indep Santa Fe 0; Pereira 1 Indep Medellin 1; At Nacional 1 Once Caldas 0; Dep Pasto 1 At Huila 0; Real Cartagena 1 America 1; Magdalena 1 Tulua 0; Quindio 1 At Junior 0.
May 11: America 3 Once Caldas 1; Indep Medellin 1 At Nacional 1; Tulua 0 Indep Santa Fe 0.
May 15: Bucaramanga 0 Indep Santa Fe 1; Once Caldas 6 Tolima 1; Tulua 2 At Nacional 0; America 1 Magdalena 1; Envigado 1 Real Cartagena 0; At Junior 0 Dep Cali 2; Indep Medellin 0 Quindio 1; At Huila 1 Pereira 0; Millonarios 1 Dep Pasto 1.
May 19: Dep Pasto 3 Bucaramanga 2; Pereira 3 Millonarios 0; Quindio 1 At Huila 1; Dep Cali 4 Indep Medellin 1; Real Cartagena 1 At Junior 2; Magdalena 1 Envigado 1; At Nacional 0 America 2; Tolima 2 Tulua 0; Indep Santa Fe 1 Once Caldas 0.

COLOMBIA: OPENING – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep Cali	22	11	6	5	44	24	39
Indep Santa Fe	22	10	8	4	26	13	38
At Nacional	22	10	8	4	24	18	38
Envigado	22	10	6	6	21	18	36
Dep Pasto	22	9	7	6	29	27	34
Bucaramanga	22	9	6	7	24	22	33
Magdalena	22	9	6	7	27	27	33
America	22	8	9	5	27	22	33
Once Caldas	22	9	5	8	36	29	32
Pereira	22	8	8	6	20	16	32
Quindio	22	7	9	6	24	30	30
At Junior	22	7	5	10	19	25	26
Millonarios	22	5	8	9	17	21	23
At Huila	22	5	7	10	21	32	22
Tulua	22	5	6	11	16	25	21
Indep Medellin	22	4	9	9	26	32	21
Real Cartagena	22	4	8	10	17	25	20
Tolima	22	3	9	10	18	30	18

Top eight qualified for play-off groups

Play-off groups

May 23: Dep Cali 2 At Nacional 2; Magdalena 2 Dep Pasto 1; Envigado 2 America 0; Bucaramanga 2 Indep Santa Fe 2.
May 29: Dep Pasto 1 Dep Cali 1; At Nacional 2 Magdalena 1; Indep Santa Fe 0 Envigado 0; America 1 Bucaramanga 0.
June 2: Dep Cali 4 Magdalena 1; Dep Pasto 0 At Nacional 2; Envigado 1 Bucaramanga 1; Indep Santa Fe 2 America 0.
June 5: Magdalena 6 Dep Cali 0; At Nacional 3 Dep Pasto 0; America 2 Indep Santa Fe 1; Bucaramanga 0 Envigado 2.
June 9: Dep Cali 3 Dep Pasto 1; Magdalena 0 At Nacional 1; Envigado 0 Indep Santa Fe 1; Bucaramanga 0 America 1.
June 12: At Nacional 2 Dep Cali 1; Dep Pasto 1 Magdalena 2; Indep Santa Fe 3 Bucaramanga 1; America 2 Envigado 1.

PLAY-OFFS: GROUP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
At Nacional	6	5	1	0	12	4	16
Magdalena	6	3	0	3	12	9	9
Dep Cali	6	2	2	2	11	13	8
Dep Pasto	6	0	1	5	4	13	1

PLAY-OFFS: GROUP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	6	4	0	2	6	6	12
Indep Santa Fe	6	3	2	1	9	5	11
Envigado	6	2	2	2	6	4	8
Bucaramanga	6	0	2	4	4	10	2

Final

1st leg - June 16 - Cali
America 2 (Castillo 48, 84)
Atletico Nacional 1 (Velasquez 43)
HT: 0-1

2nd leg - June 19 - Medellin
Atletico Nacional 0
America 1 (Castillo 71)
HT: 0-0
America win opening championship

ECUADOR

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

June 29: Macara 0 El Nacional 3.
June 30: Emelec 1 Dep Cuenca 2; Olmedo 0 LDU Quito 1; Dep Quito 3 Barcelona 2; Espoli 3 Aucas 3.
July 5: Dep Cuenca 1 Dep Quito 1.
July 6: El Nacional 2 Emelec 0.
July 7: Barcelona 2 Espoli 2; LDU Quito 3 Macara 0; Aucas 2 Olmedo 2.
July 13: Olmedo 1 Barcelona 0.
July 14: Emelec 2 Dep Quito 2; Espoli 2 Dep Cuenca 0; El Nacional 1 LDU Quito 0; Macara 1 Aucas 0.

ECUADOR – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
El Nacional	3	3	0	0	6	0	9
LDU Quito	3	2	0	1	4	1	6
Espoli	3	1	2	0	7	5	5
Dep Quito	3	1	2	0	6	5	5
Olmedo	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Dep Cuenca	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Macara	3	1	0	2	1	6	3
Aucas	3	0	2	1	5	6	2
Barcelona	3	0	1	2	4	6	1
Emelec	3	0	1	2	3	6	1

PARAGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

July 5: Olimpia 3 San Lorenzo 0.
July 7: Cerro Porteno 0 Sportivo Luqueno 0; Guarani 3 Sol de America 1; Recoleta 0 Libertad 2; Sport Colombia 2 12 de Octubre 1.
July 12: Libertad 0 Sol de America 0.
July 13: 12 de Octubre 3 Olimpia 1.
July 14: Guarani 1 Sport Colombia 1; Sportivo Luqueno 1 Recoleta 3; San Lorenzo 2 Cerro Porteno 1.

PARAGUAY – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guarani	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Libertad	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Sport Colombia	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
12 de Octubre	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Olimpia	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Recoleta	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
San Lorenzo	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Cerro Porteno	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Sol de America	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Sportivo Luqueno	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

PERU

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Mar 23: Coronel Bolognesi 0 Universitario 0.
Mar 24: Alianza Atletico 1 Cienciano 0; Alianza Lima 3 Dep Wanka 2; Sport Boys 1 Juan Aurich 0; Estudiantes 0 Sporting Cristal 0; Coopsol Trujillo 0 Melgar 0.
Mar 30: Sporting Cristal 4 Coronel Bolognesi 0; Cienciano 3 Estudiantes 3; Universitario 2 Coopsol Trujillo 1.
Mar 31: Dep Wanka 1 Alianza Atletico 0; Melgar 1 Sport Boys 0; Juan Aurich 2 Alianza Lima 2.
Apr 6: Sport Boys 3 Cienciano 2; Coopsol Trujillo 6 Dep Wanka 0.
Apr 7: Alianza Atletico 0 Universitario 0; Alianza Lima 5 Sporting Cristal 1; Estudiantes 4 Melgar 0; Coronel Bolognesi 3 Juan Aurich 2.
Apr 13: Juan Aurich 2 Cienciano 0; Universitario 2 Dep Wanka 1.
Apr 14: Sport Boys 0 Alianza Atletico 2; Coronel Bolognesi 0 Alianza Lima 0; Sporting Cristal 4 Melgar 0; Estudiantes 2 Coopsol Trujillo 0.
Apr 17: Cienciano 3 Coopsol Trujillo 2.
Apr 20: Cienciano 2 Universitario 0.
Apr 21: Alianza Atletico 3 Coronel Bolognesi 0; Alianza Lima 2 Estudiantes 1; Coopsol Trujillo 1 Sport Boys 1; Dep Wanka 1 Sporting Cristal 1; Melgar 0 Juan Aurich 0.
Apr 27-28: Cienciano 1 Melgar 1; Juan Aurich 4 Dep Wanka 0; Alianza Lima 3 Sport Boys 2; Universitario 3 Sporting Cristal 4; Coronel Bolognesi 1 Estudiantes 1; Alianza Atletico 3 Coopsol Trujillo 2.
May 1: Estudiantes 2 Sport Boys 2; Coopsol Trujillo 2 Coronel Bolognesi 1; Alianza Lima 0 Alianza Atletico 1; Sporting Cristal 1 Juan Aurich 0; Melgar 1 Universitario 0.
May 4: Universitario 1 Juan Aurich 0.

May 5: Coopsol Trujillo 1 Alianza Lima 2; Alianza Atletico 4 Estudiantes 1; Sport Boys 1 Coronel Bolognesi 0; Melgar 1 Dep Wanka 0; Cienciano 1 Sporting Cristal 0.
May 11: Estudiantes 0 Universitario 1; Sporting Cristal 4 Alianza Atletico 3; Coronel Bolognesi 1 Melgar 1; Alianza Lima 5 Cienciano 1; Juan Aurich 1 Coopsol Trujillo 1.
May 12: Dep Wanka 3 Sport Boys 0.
May 15: Universitario 2 Sport Boys 1; Cienciano 2 Coronel Bolognesi 1; Juan Aurich 3 Alianza Atletico 1; Sporting Cristal 2 Coopsol Trujillo 1; Melgar 2 Alianza Lima 3; Dep Wanka 2 Estudiantes 0.
May 18: Sport Boys 1 Sporting Cristal 0.
May 19: Alianza Lima 1 Universitario 0; Estudiantes 1 Juan Aurich 1; Coronel Bolognesi 3 Dep Wanka 3; Coopsol Trujillo 0 Cienciano 0; Alianza Atletico 3 Melgar 3.
May 22: Juan Aurich 3 Sport Boys 1; Dep Wanka 0 Alianza Lima 0; Sporting Cristal 3 Estudiantes 1; Melgar 4 Coopsol Trujillo 1; Cienciano 1 Alianza Atletico 0; Universitario 1 Coronel Bolognesi 0.
May 26: Coronel Bolognesi 1 Sporting Cristal 3; Coopsol Trujillo 0 Universitario 3; Sport Boys 4 Melgar 4; Estudiantes 0 Cienciano 0; Alianza Atletico 5 Dep Wanka 0; Alianza Lima 1 Juan Aurich 1.
May 29: Dep Wanka 2 Cienciano 3.
June 1: Sporting Cristal 2 Alianza Lima 4; Melgar 3 Estudiantes 1; Universitario 1 Alianza Atletico 0.
June 2: Juan Aurich 1 Coronel Bolognesi 0; Cienciano 3 Sport Boys 0; Dep Wanka 0 Coopsol Trujillo.
June 5: Alianza Atletico 0 Sport Boys 2; Cienciano 0 Juan Aurich 0; Melgar 4 Sporting Cristal 4; Dep Wanka 1 Universitario 2; Alianza Lima 2 Coronel Bolognesi 0; Coopsol Trujillo 3 Estudiantes 0.
June 9: Sporting Cristal 2 Dep Wanka 1; Sport Boys 1 Coopsol Trujillo 3; Juan Aurich 3 Melgar 0; Coronel Bolognesi 3 Alianza Atletico 2; Universitario 1 Cienciano 0; Estudiantes 1 Alianza Lima 1.
June 15: Sporting Cristal 0 Universitario 1; Alianza Lima 3 Sport Boys 1; Coopsol Trujillo 0 Alianza Atletico 2.
June 16: Estudiantes 2 Coronel Bolognesi 3; Dep Wanka 3 Juan Aurich 1.
June 19: Melgar 3 Cienciano 3.
June 23: Sport Boys 3 Estudiantes 0; Juan Aurich 2 Sporting Cristal 1; Coronel Bolognesi 1 Coopsol Trujillo 2; Universitario 4 Melgar 2; Alianza Atletico 1 Alianza Lima 2; Cienciano 2 Dep Wanka 1.

PERU: OPENING – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Lima	22	14	5	3	43	23	47
Universitario	22	15	2	5	30	17	47
Sporting Cristal	22	11	5	6	43	32	38
Cienciano	22	9	7	6	33	31	34
Alianza Atletico	22	10	3	9	37	26	33
Juan Aurich	22	7	7	8	29	25	28
Melgar	22	6	9	7	36	43	27
Sport Boys	22	7	4	11	29	37	25
Coopsol Trujillo	22	6	6	10	28	32	24
Coronel Bolognesi	22	6	5	11	27	39	23
Estudiantes	22	4	7	11	25	38	19
Dep Wanka	22	5	4	13	23	40	19

Play-off

1st leg - June 26
Universitario 1 (Vilallonga 57)
Alianza Lima 0
HT: 1-0

2nd leg - July 7
Alianza Lima 0
Universitario 0
Universitario win opening championship

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

July 14: Sporting Cristal 5 Cienciano 0; Juan Aurich 1 Universitario 2; Coronel Bolognesi 0 Sport Boys 2; Dep Wanka 1 Melgar 1; Alianza Lima 3 Coopsol Trujillo 1; Estudiantes 2 Alianza Atletico 0.

PERU – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting Cristal	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
Alianza Lima	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Estudiantes	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Sport Boys	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Universitario	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Dep Wanka	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Melgar	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Juan Aurich	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Coopsol Trujillo	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Alianza Atletico	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Coronel Bolognesi	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Cienciano	1	0	0	1	0	5	0

URUGUAY

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

July 12: Defensor 2 Danubio 1.
July 13: Dep Maldonado 3 Penarol 2.
July 14: Central Espanol 1 Nacional 3; Villa Espanola 0 Wanderers 1; Plaza 0 Fenix 1.

URUGUAY – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Dep Maldonado	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Defensor	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Fenix	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Wanderers	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Penarol	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Danubio	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Plaza	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Villa Espanola	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Central Espanol	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

VENEZUELA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Mar 24: Monagas 2 Galicia 0; Portuguesa 2 Ital-Chacao 1; Dep Tachira 1 Nacional 4; Trujillanos 1 Estudiantes 1; Caracas 2 Mineros Guayana 2.
Apr 7: Galicia 1 Mineros Guayana 1; Estudiantes 4 Caracas 1; Nacional 1 Trujillanos 2; Ital-Chacao 2 Dep Tachira 2; Monagas 3 Portuguesa 2.
Apr 10: Portuguesa 2 Galicia 0; Dep Tachira 1 Monagas 2; Trujillanos 0 Ital-Chacao 1; Caracas 2 Nacional 1; Mineros Guayana 1 Estudiantes 0.
Apr 14: Galicia 4 Estudiantes 0; Nacional 4 Mineros Guayana 0; Monagas 2 Trujillanos 2; Portuguesa 0 Dep Tachira 0.
Apr 17: Ital-Chacao 1 Caracas 1.
Apr 21: Dep Tachira 2 Galicia 0; Trujillanos 4 Portuguesa 3; Monagas 2 Caracas 0; Mineros Guayana 2 Ital-Chacao 2; Estudiantes 2 Nacional 0.
Apr 27-28: Galicia 2 Nacional 3; Ital-Chacao 2 Estudiantes 3; Monagas 0 Mineros Guayana 0; Portuguesa 2 Caracas 4; Dep Tachira 1 Trujillanos 0.
May 1: Trujillanos 0 Galicia 0; Caracas 2 Dep Tachira 1; Mineros Guayana 5 Portuguesa 0; Estudiantes 1 Monagas 1; Nacional 2 Ital-Chacao 1.
May 5: Ital-Chacao 6 Galicia 2; Monagas 1 Nacional 1; Portuguesa 2 Estudiantes 0; Dep Tachira 3 Mineros Guayana 1; Trujillanos 1 Caracas 1.
May 12: Caracas 4 Galicia 0; Mineros Guayana 1 Trujillanos 2; Estudiantes 1 Dep Tachira 1; Nacional 2 Portuguesa 0; Ital-Chacao 0 Monagas 0.

VENEZUELA: CLOSING – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional	18	11	3	4	37	18	36
Monagas	18	9	6	3	29	17	33
Ital-Chacao	18	8	5	5	30	22	29
Dep Tachira	18	7	6	5	26	22	27
Caracas	18	7	5	6	35	28	26
Trujillanos	18	6	6	6	25	20	24
Estudiantes	18	6	6	6	24	22	24
Galicia	18	4	4	10	18	36	16
Mineros Guayana	18	3	6	9	17	34	15
Portuguesa	18	3	5	10	27	49	14

Nacional qualified to meet opening champions Estudiantes in championship play-off

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF

May 19: Nacional 3 Estudiantes 3.
May 26: Estudiantes 0 Nacional 0 *Agg 3-3. Nacional 5-3 on pens.*

CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

MEXICO

SUMMER LEAGUE – Final

1st leg - May 23 - Aztec stadium, Mexico City
America 0
Necaxa 2 (Ruiz 12, Zague 42)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Rodriguez
Sent off: Montes de Oca (Necaxa) 81min

2nd leg - May 26 - Aztec stadium, Mexico City
Necaxa 0
America 3 (Patino 58, Zamorano 62, Castillo 105 - golden goal)
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 0-2. **Ref:** Archundia
Sent off: Perez (Necaxa) 66min
America 3-2 on agg

UNITED STATES

May 25: MetroStars 1 Kansas City Wizards 1 (aet); Columbus Crew 1 Dallas Burn 1 (aet); New England Revolution 3 Los Angeles Galaxy 2.
May 26: Chicago Fire 1 San Jose Earthquakes 1 (aet).
June 1: Colorado Rapids 3 Los Angeles Galaxy 2; New England Revolution 0 San Jose Earthquakes 2; Kansas City Wizards 2 Dallas Burn 2 (aet).
June 2: Chicago Fire 5 Columbus Crew 4.
June 8: San Jose Earthquakes 3 Kansas City Wizards 0; Los Angeles Galaxy 1 Chicago Fire 0; DC United 3 New England Revolution 2; Dallas Burn 4 Colorado Rapids 1.
June 12: New England Revolution 1 Columbus Crew 2 (aet).
June 15: MetroStars 5 Los Angeles Galaxy 0; Columbus Crew 2 San Jose Earthquakes 1; Kansas City Wizards 2 DC United 0; Chicago Fire 1 Dallas Burn 3; Colorado Rapids 1 New England Revolution 2.
June 19: DC United 2 Colorado Rapids 0; Columbus Crew 1 Kansas City Wizards 1 (aet).
June 22: San Jose Earthquakes 4 Colorado Rapids 0; Los Angeles Galaxy 3 Dallas Burn 0; Chicago Fire 0 MetroStars 1; Kansas City Wizards 3 New England Revolution 2.
June 26: MetroStars 0 Colorado Rapids 1.
June 29: San Jose Earthquakes 2 Kansas City Wizards 1; New England Revolution 0 MetroStars 2; DC United 1 Los Angeles Galaxy 0 (aet); Dallas Burn 1 Columbus Crew 0 (aet).
July 4: Los Angeles Galaxy 2 San Jose Earthquakes 1; New England Revolution 4 Columbus Crew 1; Kansas City Wizards 2 DC United 1; Dallas Burn 2 MetroStars 0; Colorado Rapids 3 Chicago Fire 2.
July 6: Kansas City Wizards 1 Dallas Burn 1 (aet); New England Revolution 2 DC United 0; Columbus Crew 2 MetroStars 3.
July 7: Chicago Fire 2 Colorado Rapids 1 (aet); San Jose Earthquakes 1 Los Angeles Galaxy 0.
July 13: MetroStars 2 Chicago Fire 3 (aet); New England Revolution 2 Kansas City Wizards 4; DC United 1 Columbus Crew 3; Dallas Burn 2 San Jose Earthquakes 1; Colorado Rapids 1 Los Angeles Galaxy 3.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chicago Fire	16	7	2	7	27	24	23
MetroStars	17	7	2	8	26	24	23
Columbus Crew	17	6	3	8	24	28	21
New England	17	6	1	10	29	35	19
DC United	16	6	1	9	19	25	19

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
San Jose	18	10	2	6	28	18	32
Dallas Burn	17	8	6	3	26	20	30
LA Galaxy	17	8	2	7	23	23	26
Colorado Rapids	18	8	1	9	25	31	25
Kansas City	17	6	6	5	25	24	24

LEADING GOALSCORERS

13	Carlos Ruiz (Los Angeles Galaxy)
13	Taylor Twellman (New England Revolution)
12	Jason Kreis (Dallas Burn)
10	Ariel Graziani (San Jose Earthquakes)

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

GROUP STAGE SCHEDULE

Group A

Aug 3: TP Mazembe (DRC) v Raja Casablanca (Mor); Al Ahly (Egy) v Jeanne d'Arc (Sen).
Aug 17: Jeanne d'Arc v TP Mazembe.
Aug 18: Raja Casablanca v Al Ahly.
Aug 30: Al Ahly v TP Mazembe.
Sep 1: Jeanne d'Arc v Raja Casablanca.
Sep 14: TP Mazembe v Al Ahly.
Sep 15: Raja Casablanca v Jeanne d'Arc.
Oct 6: Jeanne d'Arc v Al Ahly; Raja Casablanca v TP Mazembe.
Oct 18: Al Ahly v Raja Casablanca; TP Mazembe v Jeanne d'Arc.

Group B

Aug 2: Zamalek (Egy) v ASEC Abidjan (IvC).
Aug 4: Costa do Sol (Moz) v Esperance (Tun).
Aug 17: Esperance v Zamalek.
Aug 18: ASEC Abidjan v Costa do Sol.
Aug 31: Costa do Sol v Zamalek; Esperance v ASEC Abidjan.
Sep 13: Zamalek v Costa do Sol.
Sep 15: ASEC Abidjan v Esperance.
Oct 5: ASEC Abidjan v Zamalek; Esperance v Costa do Sol.
Oct 19: Costa do Sol v ASEC Abidjan; Zamalek v Esperance.

Top two in each group qualify for semi-finals, to be staged in November

ASIA

ASIAN SUPER CUP

1st leg - July 6 - Suwon
Suwon Bluewings (SKo) 1 (Lee Ki-hyun 53)
Al Hilal (Sau) 0
HT: 0-0

2nd leg - July 19 - Riyadh
Al Hilal 1 (Tamayo 35)
Suwon Bluewings 0
Aet. **HT:** 1-0. **90mins:** 1-0
Agg 1-1. Suwon 4-2 on pens

JAPAN

FIRST STAGE

July 13: JEF United Ichihara 3 Nagoya Grampus Eight 4 (aet); Kashima Antlers 1 Tokyo Verdy 1969 0; Urawa Reds 2 Jubilo Iwata 3 (aet); Yokohama F Marinos 2 Vegalta Sendai 0; Kyoto Purple Sanga 2 Kashiwa Reysol 0; Vissel Kobe 1 Consadole Sapporo 0.
July 14: FC Tokyo 4 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0; Shimizu S-Pulse 1 Gamba Osaka 4.

JAPAN – FIRST STAGE

	P	W1	W2	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yokohama FM	8	7	0	1	0	15	3	22
Jubilo Iwata	8	7	0	0	1	19	8	21
Vegalta Sendai	8	5	1	0	2	15	8	17
Gamba Osaka	8	5	0	1	2	19	8	16
Shimizu S-Pulse	8	4	0	2	2	8	11	14
Kashima Antlers	8	4	0	0	4	9	10	12
Kyoto PS	8	3	1	0	4	13	11	11
Grampus Eight	8	3	1	0	4	11	10	11
FC Tokyo	8	3	0	2	3	13	14	11
Kashiwa Reysol	8	3	1	0	4	10	12	11
JEF United	8	2	0	2	4	8	15	8
Vissel Kobe	8	2	0	1	5	6	8	7
Sanfrecce H	8	2	0	1	5	9	15	7
Urawa Reds	8	1	1	1	5	12	13	6
Tokyo Verdy	8	0	1	1	6	6	14	3
Consadole Sapp	8	1	0	0	7	7	20	3

W1 = win in 90mins – 3pts; W2 = win in extra time – 2pts; Draw = 1pt

TRANSFERS

	POS	FROM	TO
ABELARDO	D	Barcelona	Alaves
Samassi ABOU	F	Ajaccio	Lorient
Milenko ACIMOVIC	M	Red Star Belgrade	Tottenham
Roberto ACUNA	M	Zaragoza	Deportivo La Coruna
ADRIANO	F	Internazionale	Parma (loan)
Demetrio ALBERTINI	M	Milan	Atletico Madrid (loan)
ALFONSO Perez	F	Barcelona	Real Betis (loan)
Marcus ALLBACK	F	Heerenveen	Aston Villa
Matias ALMEYDA	M	Parma	Internazionale
Nicola AMORUSO	F	Juventus	Perugia (loan)
ANDERSON	F	Alverca	Benfica
ANDRE LUIZ Moreira	D	Marseille	Paris Saint-Germain
Nicolas ANELKA	F	Paris Saint-Germain	Manchester City
ANTONIO CARLOS Zago	D	Roma	Besiktas
Stephen APPIAH	M	Parma	Brescia
Mattias ASPER	M	Real Sociedad	Malmo
Marcos ASSUNCAO	M	Roma	Real Betis
Phil BABB	D	Sporting Lisbon	Sunderland
Elvir BALJIC	F	Real Madrid	Galatasaray
Michael BALLACK	M	Bayer Leverkusen	Bayern Munich
Miroslav BARANEK	M	Koln	Sparta Prague
Christian BASSILA	M	Rennes	Strasbourg
Michael BAUR	D	FC Tirol	Hamburg
Radek BEJBL	M	Lens	Slavia Prague
Juliano BELLETTI	D	Sao Paulo	Villarreal
Yossi BENAYOUN	F	Maccabi Haifa	Racing Santander
Patrick BENEFORTI	M	Bastia	Udinese
Hector BLANCO	D	Libertad	San Lorenzo (Arg)
Jonathan BLONDEL	M	Excelsior Mouscron	Tottenham
Rade BOGDANOVIC	F	Werder Bremen	Arminia Bielefeld
Alain BOGHOSSIAN	M	Parma	Espanyol
Victor BONILLA	F	Unattached	Montpellier
Alejandro BOTERO	M	Deportivo Cali	Independiente (Arg)
Michael BOULDING	M	Grimsby	Aston Villa
Titus BRAMBLE	D	Ipswich	Newcastle
Mark BRESCIANO	M	Empoli	Parma
BULENT Akin	M	Galatasaray	Bolton
Gabriel CABALLERO	M	Pachuca	Atlas
Mauro CAMORANESI	M	Verona	Juventus
Raul CASCINI	M	Toulouse	Boca Juniors
Petr CECH	G	Sparta Prague	Rennes
Walter CENTENO	M	Deportivo Saprissa	AEK Athens
CESAR PEIXOTO	M	Belenenses	FC Porto
Bruno CHEYROU	M	Lille	Liverpool
Aliou CISSE	D	Paris Saint-Germain	Birmingham City
Francesco COCO	D	Milan	Internazionale
Fabricio COLOCCINI	D	Milan	Atletico Madrid (loan)
Oscar CORDOBA	G	Boca Juniors	Besiktas (loan)
Daniel CORDONE	F	Argentinos Juniors	San Lorenzo (Arg)
Bernardo CORRADI	F	Chievo	Internazionale
CRISTIANO	D	Beira Mar	Benfica
Mario CUENCA	G	Talleres Cordoba	Racing Club (Arg)
Kenny CUNNINGHAM	D	Wimbledon	Birmingham
Pascal CYGAN	D	Lille	Arsenal
Sam DALLA BONA	M	Chelsea	Milan
Jean-Claude DARCHEVILLE	F	Lorient	Bordeaux
Enrique DE LUCAS	M	Espanyol	Chelsea
Luca DENICOLA	D	Grasshopper	Young Boys (loan)
Jose DEVACA	D	Cerro Porteno	San Lorenzo (Arg)
Didier DHEDEENE	M	1860 Munich	Austria Wien
Mamadou DIALLO	F	New England Rev	MetroStars
Alou DIARRA	M	Bayern Munich	Liverpool
Mahamadou DIARRA	M	Vitesse Arnhem	Lyon
Leo DIAZ	G	Colon Santa Fe	Independiente (Arg)
El Hadji DIOUF	F	Lens	Liverpool
Sylvain DISTIN	D	Paris Saint-Germain	Manchester City
Martin DJETOU	D	Parma	Fulham (loan)
Juan C DOCABO	G	Nueva Chicago	Estudiantes LP
Federico DOMINGUEZ	M	Velez Sarsfield	Independiente (Arg)
Matias DONNET	M	Venezia	Boca Juniors
Emmanuel DORADO	D	Malaga	Livingston
Pierre DUCROQ	M	Paris Saint-Germain	Le Havre
Richard DUTRUEL	G	Barcelona	Alaves
EDILSON	F	Cruzeiro	Kashiwa Reysol
EMERSON Moises Costa	M	Deportivo La Coruna	Atletico Madrid
Robert ENKE	G	Benfica	Barcelona
Jorge Loureiro FELIPE	M	Vasco da Gama	Galatasaray
Rio FERDINAND	D	Leeds	Manchester United
Marc-Vivien FOE	M	Lyon	Manchester City (loan)
Carmine GAUTIERI	M	Piacenza	Atalanta
Alberto GILARDINO	F	Verona	Parma
Radoslaw GILEWICZ	F	FC Tirol	Austria Wien
Jocelyn GOURVENNEC	M	Rennes	Bastia
Vratislav GRESKO	D	Internazionale	Parma
Josep GUARDIOLA	M	Brescia	Roma
Adrian GUILLERMO	F	Boca Juniors	Jorge Wilstermann

	POS	FROM	TO
Sergei GURENKO	D	Parma	Piacenza
Martin HERRERA	G	Alaves	Fulham
HUGO VIANA	M	Sporting Lisbon	Newcastle
Junichi INAMOTO	M	Gamba Osaka	Fulham (loan)
Valerien ISMAEL	D	Lens	Olympiakos
Georgi IVANOV	F	Levski Sofia	Rennes
Tomasz IWAN	M	Austria Wien	Admira Wacker
Edgaras JANKAUSKAS	F	Benfica	FC Porto
JAVI MORENO	F	Milan	Atletico Madrid (loan)
JOSE MARI	F	Milan	Atletico Madrid
JUAN	D	Flamengo	Bayer Leverkusen
Zeljko KALAC	G	Roda JC	Perugia
Raymond KALLA	D	Extremadura	Bochum
Aitor KARANKA	D	Real Madrid	Athletic Bilbao
Richard KITZBICHLER	M	Salzburg	Hamburg
Petr KOUBA	G	Koln	Sparta Prague
Michel KREEK	M	Vitesse Arnhem	AEK Athens
Pierre LAIGLE	M	Lyon	Montpellier
Garba LAWAL	M	Roda JC	Levski Sofia
Cristian LEDESMA	M	River Plate (Arg)	Hamburg
LI Tie	M	Liaoning Bodao	Everton (loan)
LI Weifeng	D	Shenzhen	Everton
Joachim LOW	D	Ujpest	Energie Cottbus
Anthony LURLING	F	Heerenveen	Feyenoord
Massimo MACCARONE	F	Empoli	Middlesbrough
Alex MANNINGER	G	Arsenal	Espanyol
Enzo MARESCA	M	Juventus	Piacenza
Florian MAURICE	F	Marseille	Bastia
Sebastian MENDEZ	D	Velez Sarsfield	Celta Vigo
Bernard MENDY	D	Paris Saint-Germain	Bolton (loan)
Farid MONDRAGON	G	Metz	Galatasaray
Lubomir MORAVCIC	M	Celtic	JEF United Ichihara
Joe MURPHY	G	Tranmere	West Brom
Thomas MYHRE	G	Besiktas	Sunderland
Shunsuke NAKAMURA	M	Yokohama F Marinos	Reggina (loan)
Alex NYARKO	M	Everton	Paris Saint-Germain (loan)
Jay-Jay OKOCHA	M	Paris Saint-Germain	Bolton
Salomon OLEMBE	M	Nantes	Marseille (perm't from loan)
Ariel ORTEGA	M	River Plate (Arg)	Fenerbahce
Yksel OSMANOVSKI	F	Bordeaux	Torino
Christian PANUCCI	D	Monaco	Roma (permanent from loan)
PAULO CESAR	D	Fluminense	Paris Saint-Germain
PAULO SERGIO	F	Bayern Munich	Al Wahda (UAE)
Marc Sebastian PELZER	D	Kaiserslautern	Blackburn
Dusan PETKOVIC	D	Wolfsburg	Nurnberg
Fabio PINTO	M	Internacional (Bra)	Galatasaray
Karel POBORSKY	M	Lazio	Sparta Prague
Jamie REDKNAPP	M	Liverpool	Tottenham
Jose Manuel REINA	G	Barcelona	Villarreal
Reuben REYES	M	Oviedo	Villarreal
Rohan RICKETTS	M	Arsenal	Tottenham
Juan Roman RIQUELME	M	Boca Juniors	Barcelona
ROBSON	F	Moscow Spartak	Lorient
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Mohamed Adama SARR	D	Milan	Galatasaray (loan)
Luigi SARTOR	D	Parma	Roma
Facundo SAVA	F	Gimnasia y Esgrima LP	Fulham
Robbie SAVAGE	M	Leicester	Birmingham
Nestor SENSINI	D	Parma	Udinese
Matteo SERENI	G	Ipswich	Brescia (loan)
SERGEN Yalcin	M	Galatasaray	Besiktas
Juan J SERIZUELA	D	San Lorenzo (Arg)	Independiente (Arg)
Mauricio SERNA	M	Boca Juniors	Puebla
Dario SIMIC	D	Internazionale	Milan
Sebastiano SIVIGLIA	D	Roma	Parma
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Christian TIMM	F	Koln	Kaiserslautern
Andy TODD	D	Charlton	Blackburn
Jon Dahl TOMASSON	F	Feyenoord	Milan
UMIT Davala	M	Milan	Internazionale
UMIT Davala	M	Internazionale	Galatasaray (loan)
Marc VAN HINTUM	D	Vitesse Arnhem	Hannover 96
Ivica VASTIC	F	Sturm Graz	Nagoya Grampus Eight
Remi VERCOUTRE	G	Montpellier	Lyon
Manuel VIDRIO	D	Pachuca	Osasuna (loan)
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Ronnie WALLWORK	D	Manchester United	West Brom
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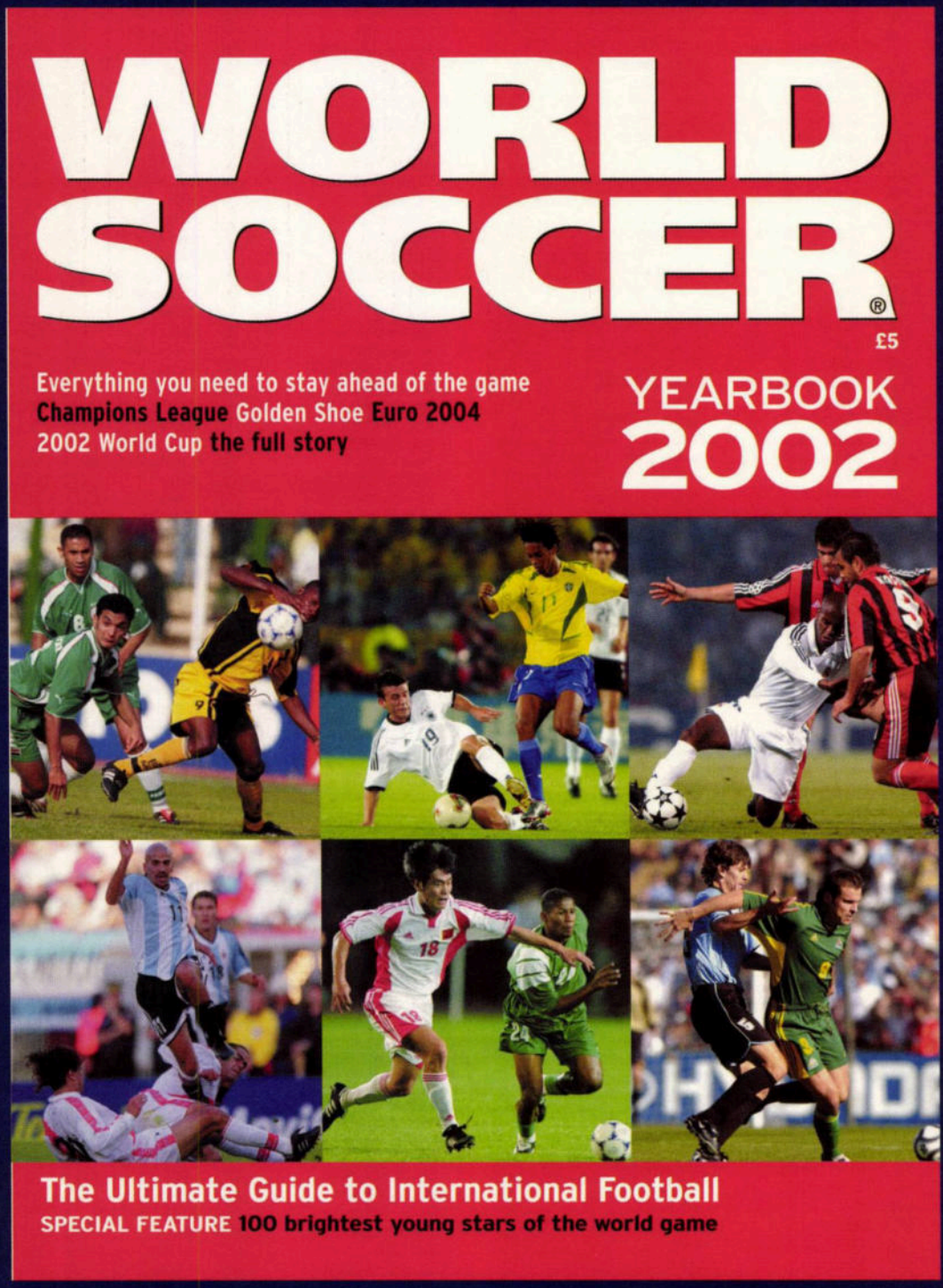

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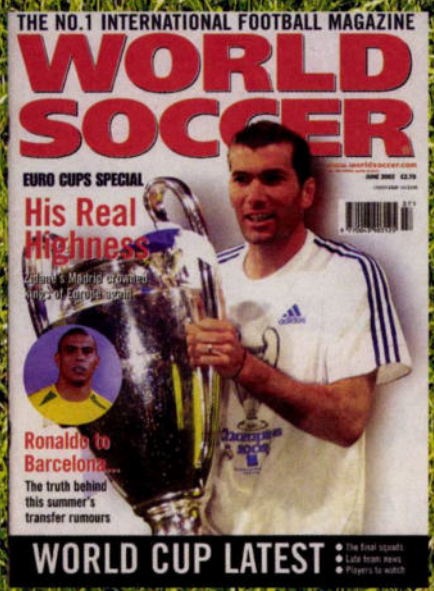

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You cannot be serious...Iuliano, Vieri and Maldini protest but referee Moreno is unmoved as another decision goes against Italy during their defeat by South Korea

RIP catenaccio?

After the Azzurri's ungracious World Cup exit, Italy's footballing ideology needs to change, argues Paddy Agnew

TUESDAY, June 18, 2002, is a date unlikely to pass unnoticed in the annals of Italian football. Italy's World Cup elimination at the hands of 'little' South Korea prompted a spontaneous popular mini-uprising as two great Italian passions, namely football and the conspiracy theory approach to life, blended into a feisty cocktail of angry allegations and nationwide outrage.

Those who might have hoped Italy's defeat by South Korea would be treated with Kipling-like sporting equanimity were to be disappointed. Next morning, the newspapers set the tone. "It's a Dirty World Cup," roared *Corriere Della Sera*. "Thieves," screamed *Corriere Dello Sport*. "Shame On You," headlined *Gazzetta Dello Sport*. "Ref Gifts Win to South Korea," chimed in *La Repubblica*.

Rightly or wrongly – and we would argue wrongly – millions of Italians, from state president Carlo Azeglio Ciampi down, were convinced that Italy had been eliminated not because of any shortcomings on the part of the *Azzurri* but rather because of the one-sided refereeing of Ecuadorean Aldemar Byron Ruales Moreno.

He stood 'accused' of having denied Italy a golden goal, of having wrongly sent off playmaker Francesco Totti and of generally blowing the game in favour of the Koreans, as evidenced by his awarding of a penalty to the host nation after just four minutes.

Within minutes of the Ahn Jung-hwan golden goal that sent Italy packing, President Ciampi was on the phone to tell coach Giovanni Trapattoni that Italy had done the country proud and, what is more, that on this occasion the right team had definitely *not* won. We know this because, remarkably, the President's office issued a statement repeating his belief that Italy should have won. Catching the national mood, the oft-times outspoken and controversial Luciano Gaucci, owner of Serie A side Perugia, declared that he would sack golden goal-scorer Ahn. And there's one of the great ironies of the game – because 26-year-old Ahn has been little used by Perugia over the past two seasons and mainly in the role of substitute.

By scoring that winning goal against Italy, thundered Gaucci, Ahn had shown himself ungrateful to the country that had taken him in and taught him all he knew. Within 24 hours, however, commercial good sense had overtaken the hurt to national pride as Perugia issued a

statement confirming that they might yet extend Ahn's contract. Like everyone else in FootBiz, they knew all too well that the South Korean's market value had increased tenfold since the start of the World Cup three weeks earlier.

In the midst of all the clamour, some serious soccer people such as former internationals Roberto Boninsegna, Gianni Rivera and Gigi Riva all tried to point out that perhaps Italy had lost not because of the referee, but rather because they failed to take their chances to wrap up the game when leading 1-0. Perhaps Italy just did not play well enough, they quietly suggested.

"Italy missed too many chances, and at this level you simply cannot get away with that. Our defence, too, was much too ingenuous," commented Boninsegna, while Rivera argued: "We could have wrapped up the game much earlier and we simply were not able to."

Riva said: "I've never seen anything like it and I'm not talking about the referee – I'm talking about the number of chances we missed, not just in this game but also in our first-round matches."

Those group matches had provided the initial reason for Italian paranoia. Dubious line-calls leading to disallowed goals in the 2-1 defeat by Croatia and in the 1-1 draw with Mexico had generated an irrational Italian suspicion that FIFA simply wanted Italy out of the tournament. Then after Italy's defeat by South Korea, the co-hosts' controversial quarter-final win against Spain only provided further 'proof' to the conspiracy theorists that the *Azzurri* had been victims of a plot to favour the home side.

At one moment, it looked as if the whole affair might get out of hand. *Corriere Dello Sport* even suggested that Italian federation president Franco Carraro had collected evidence to prove South Korea had "bought" referee Moreno. In the end, it came as a matter of no small relief when Carraro dismissed such accusations at his first news conference hours after returning to Italy.

"To attribute the responsibility of our elimination only to negative refereeing would simply not be correct," Carraro said. "The truth is that we missed too many chances, and while it is true that referee Moreno proved himself to be either absolutely inadequate or conditioned by the environment, the fact is that if we keep on complaining like this, we'll make a laughing stock of ourselves in the eyes of the world."

While Italy's inability to prove themselves good losers might amuse the rest of the world, the uncomfortable truths facing Italian football are no laughing matter. For all that Trapattoni might claim that he got almost nothing wrong, many of us would beg to differ.

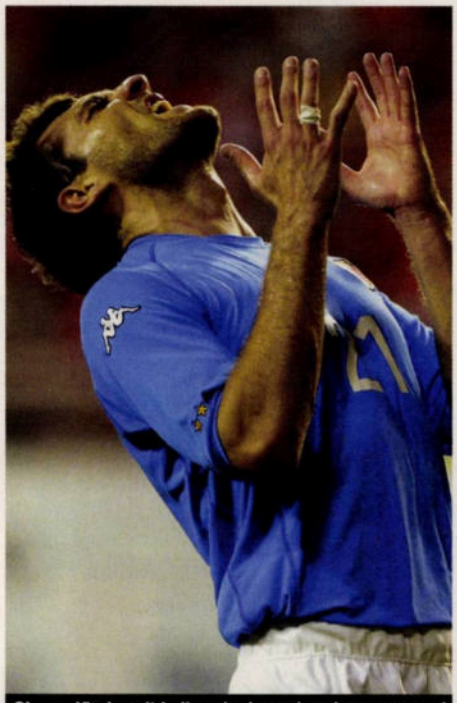
The grim reality of Italy's World Cup showing is that the side performed to approximately 30 per cent of their potential. With the exception of an authoritative opening half-hour in their 2-0 win against Ecuador in the first game, Italy rarely looked at ease or in command.

The Italian football community might do well to reflect on the disastrous results at club and international level over the past three seasons. Not only have Italian clubs returned three consecutive Champions League whitewashes but there is also, of course, the painful memory of that last-gasp Euro 2000 Final loss to France in Rotterdam.

Could it be that the age of *catenaccio* is finally dead and buried? Could it be that in today's much-changed football (just think of the effect of the rule change banning the goalkeeper from using his hands to play a defender's back pass) it is simply suicide to play a negative, percentage game in which you try to hold on for a 1-0 win?

Has the time come for Italian football to reassess a seemingly quintessential ingredient in the national DNA, namely the belief that in football the first cardinal rule is 'Don't Give Away a Goal'. Perhaps that old adage ought to be changed to 'When Leading, Always Try to Score a Second Goal'.

What seems certain in hindsight is that, under the intense pressure of a World Cup,



Oh no...Vieri can't believe he has missed an open goal

Trapattoni resorted to traditional, defensive ways. One key example may make the point. In the game against South Korea, the coach opted to bring off Alessandro Del Piero on the hour and at a time, of course, when Italy were still leading 1-0 thanks to Christian Vieri's first-half headed goal.

Del Piero came off to be replaced by midfield battler Gennaro Gattuso in a move all too obviously intended to tighten up midfield and close down the game. Yet, is it not at least arguable that in similar circumstances a Brazilian, German or English coach would have opted to bring on such as Vincenzo Montella or Marco Delvecchio or Filippo Inzaghi, all sitting idly on the bench? Indeed, how many coaches would have brought off Del Piero at that point?

In hindsight, one can also point to other elements in the Italian failure. Italy clearly missed central defenders Alessandro Nesta (injured) and Fabio Cannavaro (suspended) against South Korea. Captain Paolo Maldini, outjumped by Ahn for the winning goal, was probably not at his best for the tournament after an injury-interrupted season.

Playmaker Francesco Totti, even if he was regularly played out of position as a striker alongside Vieri, still has to be ranked a major disappointment in a tournament where he frankly failed to stand up and deliver.

Trapattoni could probably have done with someone like Chievo's Eugenio Corini to add an element of quality to a midfield that looked all the more pedestrian when Totti was shoved forward and when long-time playmaker Demetrio Albertini was back at home nursing a serious injury.

In the end, however, the role and use or non-use of different individuals is not the point. In the end, Italy's failure was about attitude not personnel. Even the one match they managed to win at the finals made the point.

When Trapattoni opted for a cautious 4-4-2 line-up, leaving Montella, Delvecchio, Del Piero and Inzaghi on the bench in order to field Totti and Vieri in attack, he indicated he was as concerned about containing Ecuador as about scoring goals against them. Remember, too, we are talking about (with all due respect) Ecuador, not Brazil.

Trapattoni has claimed that his only mistake at the finals was not to have switched the marking positions of Francesco Coco and Christian Panucci during extra-time against South Korea. He may be right, although we would humbly beg to differ. For the time being, however, he looks like he will pull off one major coup, namely that of having failed badly at a World Cup and yet manage to hold on to his job. At press time, Trapattoni looked certain to be confirmed as the man to prepare Italy's qualification for the European Championship in Portugal in two years' time.

The coach is, of course, a great professional, and we would like to believe that when the World Cup dust has finally settled, he will perhaps privately acknowledge that there was more to Italy's defeat than poor line-calls, disallowed goals and the odd missed defensive switch.

If he fails to acknowledge this, then the future for the Italian national team suddenly seems grey and grim.

Camacho cries off

Jeff King and Andy Mitten report on the resignation of the national coach

THE Spanish media have long championed club football over their international selection. It's understandable. Real Madrid's European Cup record gives journalists and fans alike ample motive for puffing out their chests. With Spain's other leading clubs regular performers in the latter stages of the Champions League, talk of La Liga being Europe's strongest league is taken as fact and not opinion.

By contrast, the best the national side can boast is a fourth-place finish at a World Cup – and that was way back in 1950. In fact, Spain went to Korea/Japan having failed to win their opening game at a World Cup finals since that same tournament, often struggling against nations not normally noted for their footballing acumen.

By claiming indifference as the World Cup kicked off, Spaniards who care for their national side – and there are many in the semi-autonomous regions of Catalonia and the Basque Country who would claim that they would rather see the national side lose – were preparing themselves an emotional cushion for another failure. The leading terrestrial broadcasters had struck a deal to transmit nothing but Spain games, plus half-a-dozen selected other matches. Columnists initially described the competition as "the invisible World Cup".

The relatively low profile meant far fewer water-cooler moments. And with just 50 fans making the journey to Korea, Spaniards could shrug their shoulders and say a collective 'we didn't care' if the national side continued their record of spectacular underperformance in international competition.

Then something unusual happened. Spain won their opening match against Slovenia. A mood of indifference was replaced by one of optimism, some would say over-optimism. That disposition was exacerbated when Paraguay were defeated in game two, Spain's second successive 3-1 victory and promising display.

In a poll of newspaper and broadcast journalists in the best-selling sports daily *Marca*, 50 per cent said that they thought Spain would reach the World Cup Final, 30 per cent the semi-final and 20 per cent the quarters. The criticism from some sections of the media, which had irritated the otherwise popular coach Jose Antonio Camacho, all but evaporated.

Camacho, a Real Madrid icon, had been cut more slack than his predecessor, the Basque Javier Clemente, but he had complained about the acerbic comments of journalists, who had accused him of using too many players and of lacking a definitive system.

When Camacho indulged in some typical sabre-rattling, urging players and those watching back home to pull together, it was an act of patriotism as much as no-nonsense leadership – the quality that had made him popular in the first place.

Camacho, who since taking charge after the underperformance at France 98 had become statistically the most successful Spanish national coach, suddenly had the media on his side. That was some achievement given that his appointment had initially been called into question.

A third victory over South Africa set up a second-round game with Ireland, or "that British team" as one TV commentator referred to Mick McCarthy's men, before later correcting his mistake.

The Republic were not brushed aside as expected by many Spaniards, and it needed Real Madrid's sometime keeper Iker Casillas to again play the role of hero. In fact, the praise he received actually outstripped that for his Champions League Final heroics. Casillas adorned the front pages after saving three penalties. "Guardian Angel" and "Hands of God" were but two typically hyperbolic headlines.

Other journalists showed bias and imagination by talking of "Real Madrid's World Cup", a jaundiced view given that so many of those same Madrid players (notably Zidane and Figo) struggled for fitness due to injuries and niggles intensified by the excesses of club football.

Raul, without a doubt Spain's key player, missed his country's next and ultimately final game, the quarter-final against South Korea – a match watched by a larger percentage of the Spanish viewing public than any other televised programme in 2002.

In a tense and highly absorbing match, Egyptian referee Gamal Al-Ghandour ruled out Ivan Helguera's second-half header for apparent shirt-pulling. Then Spain were twice pulled back for offside when clean through on goal during extra-time, decisions television replays proved incorrect.

However, it was the incident two minutes into extra-time that caused the most outrage. When 20-year-old winger Joaquin crossed for Fernando Morientes to head a golden goal, Spanish players celebrated as if they had qualified for the semi-final and a tie against Germany.

Media friendly...Camacho won over journalists during the World Cup

Unfortunately, Joaquin was adjudged to have allowed the ball to go over the goal-line before crossing by Trinidadian linesman Michael Ragoonath. It clearly hadn't, and there was justifiable outrage. But the main outbreak of anger had to wait until after penalties settled the tie.

Joaquin, Spain's World Cup revelation along with Barcelona defender Carles Puyol, struck a weak spot-kick that was saved – itself not without incident as the South Korean goalkeeper had left his line before the Real Betis winger had started his run-up. Spain's exit was confirmed – the cue for serious anger being vented as several players were held back from confronting the officials.

Others were in tears, and the fury was tangible. Camacho, who presumably had no sweat left for tears after two hours of camera-friendly perspiration, complained: "We've become another victim. We scored two goals. We're going home when we clearly showed we were superior, and that's what hurts most. It wasn't a matter of luck but a matter of being robbed of two legal goals. Italy and Portugal suffered the same situation but I never expected it would be so flagrant in the quarter-finals."

Keeper Casillas, still only 21, suggested that referees were deliberately favouring South Korea, saying: "We've already seen this when South Korea played against the USA, Portugal and Italy. I am sad as we fought hard for 120 minutes and lost unjustly. This isn't good for football."

With conspiracy theories running unchecked on radio and television, Puyol added a few sane words: "I don't think the referee went out to rob either team, but the pictures speak for themselves. The two goals were good."

The newspapers were predictably infuriated with headlines like "Daylight Robbery", "Crime of the Century" and "Rotten World Cup". It got more outlandish. One newspaper described events as: "The Biggest Scandal in History", while another went for a below-the-belt strike, calling the referee: "The Son of a Bitch". No doubt they will have claimed to be reflecting the view of the people. Those with reasonably long memories will point out that this sense of popular justice was patently absent when referees proved Spain's best players by some distance at the 1982 World Cup.

Far from injecting some diplomacy into the debate, Spanish FA president Angel Maria Villar criticised the officials and resigned from his post on the FIFA referees committee in disgust.

It wasn't the only resignation. How heavily the defeat weighed upon Camacho is not known, but his decision to stand down a few days after his team were greeted on their return by royalty at Madrid's Barajas airport was a surprise. Camacho stepped aside claiming that the "time was right".

"I'm 47," he said, "I had the option to renew my contract, but I don't want to wait until Euro 2004 or four years for the next World Cup."

Camacho refuted reports that he had fallen out with his captain, the recently retired Fernando Hierro, in Korea. The pair even went as far as to issue a joint denial after newspapers alleged that Hierro, the dominant personality in Real Madrid's dressing-room, insisted that the injured Raul was left out against South Korea when Camacho wanted him to start.

Camacho wants a return to management at club level, though he will have to wait for the first managerial casualties of the new season before he receives a chance to rejoin the stresses and joys of club football that he craves.

Stepping up...new national coach Inaki Saez

> 'I had the option to renew my contract, but I don't want to wait until Euro 2004'
>
> *Jose Antonio Camacho*

Camacho has coached at Rayo Vallecano, Espanyol (twice), Sevilla and Real Madrid (briefly), and won a reputation much like the one he had as a player – for being tough and uncompromising. He is a close friend of Real Madrid coach Vicente Del Bosque, and the speculation is that he could work in some role alongside Del Bosque at the Bernabeu. Whatever, Camacho's decision to stand down was a surprise.

"He seemed happy in the job when we were at the World Cup. He gave no indication even though we failed to get past the quarter-finals," said the jet-heeled Joaquin, who had been given his international debut by Camacho.

Other players made complimentary remarks about the coach, a very different reaction to when his predecessor Clemente resigned. Then, the row over his successor reached parliament after Spain lost to Cyprus in their first qualifier for Euro 2000.

After swiftly ruling out the possibility of appointing a non-Spanish coach to succeed Camacho, the FA handed Under-21 manager Inaki Saez a two-year contract. "I hope I last a long time and that I am successful," declared the 59-year-old.

In reality, he only got the job because leading candidates Javier Irureta (Deportivo), Luis Aragones (Atletico Madrid) and Victor Fernandez (Betis) have all recently signed new club contracts.

Saez spent 12 years as a player with Athletic Bilbao and much of his time coaching at various levels – including the first team – at the same club. He then had unspectacular spells at Second Division Albacete and Las Palmas in the early 1990s.

Saez was initially recruited by the Spanish FA in 1996 and has been a solid backroom presence ever since. Among his considerable achievements are triumphs at the European Under-21 championship in 1998 and the Under-20 World Youth Cup in 1999, not to mention a silver-medal finish at the Sydney Olympics.

"I've always dreamed about this and now it's a reality," said the modest Saez. "Officials have told me I'm the ideal man and that they want me to lead the team until Euro 2004 in Portugal. I didn't do badly with the youth teams, and they wanted to give me a chance. I was surprised that Camacho left, but he is somebody who thinks things over before making decisions.

"The important thing is that the people who have appointed me and many of the players know me well. It hasn't been hard to decide as the reasons they want me are logical. I'm an insider and I know how Spanish football works."

Illustrious veterans Hierro, Miguel Angel Nadal and Luis Enrique have all signalled their intention to retire from international football, but Saez still inherits a team blessed with the talent of previous models. And he will be delighted with the chance of renewing acquaintances with former youth charges Casillas, Joaquin, Puyol, Xavi and Albelda.

Saez could benefit from football's economic slowdown, too. International managers like to see their charges playing first-team football, and with more Spanish clubs reducing the size of their squads, in theory, fewer players will see more action.

Clubs are also putting more emphasis on developing young players after over-spending in recent seasons. Some, like Sevilla, intend to develop youngsters in the hope of selling them at a profit in order to reduce debts. Even the biggest clubs, who previously allowed money to burn holes in their large pockets, have been promoting more players from their 'B' selections.

Saez should not have to deal with the accusation that he picks players who cannot make their club starting XIs, unlike Camacho and World Cup flop Gaizka Mendieta. Having already worked with Spain's finest young players, Saez is rightly optimistic as he sets about qualifying for the 2004 European Championship.

Unfortunately, Spain's problems seem to materialise, not in the qualifiers, but at finals tournaments themselves.

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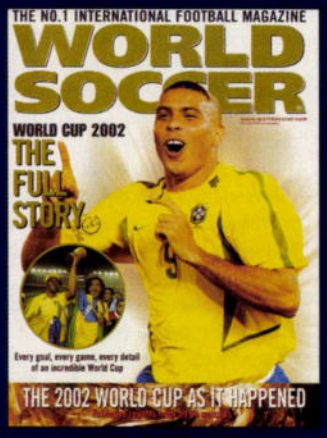

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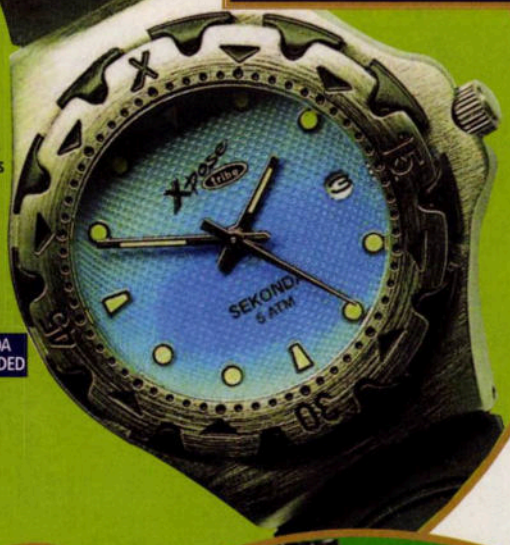

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Fight to the finish

Brothers in arms...Voller (second right) and his squad salute the fans on their homecoming reception in Frankfurt

Rudi Voller's spirited World Cup runners-up have made the critics eat humble pie, writes Nick Bidwell

"**WHAT** would have happened if we'd won the Cup?" asked Germany coach Rudi Voller on seeing the ecstatic reception for his squad of World Cup runners-up at their homecoming reception at Frankfurt City Hall.

And who could blame German fans for celebrating so loudly and for so long. After the 5-1 drubbing at home by England last September and only making the finals thanks to a play-off victory over Ukraine, expectations of the national side had never been so low.

Many so-called experts – stand up Franz Beckenbauer, Gunter Netzer and Paul Breitner – even believed that a quarter-final berth would be beyond what was widely acknowledged as the poorest Germany team in living memory. How wrong they were, and how good it was to see Beckenbauer and company eat humble pie at the end of the tournament.

One of the few critics not to revise his opinion of the national team was ex-Bayern Munich and Monchengladbach coach Udo Lattek. He stuck to his guns, insisting that Germany's march to the Final had more to do with guts than attractive play. "Even if we had beaten Brazil and become world champions, I would not change my opinion that we played ugly football," claimed Lattek. "This is a mediocre German team. I almost feel physical pain watching some of our games.

"The good thing for us is that the standard of the whole tournament has been low. I can't remember anything great about this competition. It's been a disappointment."

Lattek is harsh on his countrymen. True, Germany did perform laboriously against Paraguay and the United States, and enjoyed a large slice of good fortune along the way – notably their place in the weaker half of the draw and the failure of Scottish referee Hugh Dallas to spot Torsten Frings' goal-line handball against the USA.

Yet Germany deserve their share of credit, too. Who else but Germany could have reached the World Cup Final despite being deprived by injury of their entire first-choice defence – Jens Nowotny, Christian Worns and Marko Rehmer – and their two most creative players, Mehmet Scholl and Sebastian Deisler? Certainly not the star-studded flops from France, who could certainly have used a dash of *Nationalmannschaft* resilience, the sort of unbreakable competitive spirit that enabled the Germans to beat Cameroon with 10 men.

At World Cup 2002, the likes of France, Portugal, Argentina, Italy and Spain left their best fight in the gym. Not Germany. Nor was it simply a case of keeper extraordinaire Oliver Kahn single-handedly carrying his team-mates to the Final.

The new-look defence of Carsten Ramelow, Thomas Linke and Christoph Metzelder functioned far better than anyone could have hoped; the Germans excelled at bringing the ball out from the back; and, arguably, no other team put in better crosses from wide positions, with the ever-impressive Bernd Schneider particularly excellent. Ask young striking revelation Miroslav Klose what he thinks of the quality of service from the flanks. All five of his goals were headers.

Moreover, Voller's team produced their best football of the competition in the semi-final and Final, pinning back both South Korea and Brazil for long periods with crisp passing and adventurous approach play. Too bad for all those who still prefer to deal in Germanic footballing stereotypes. There was nothing dour and pedestrian here.

The untimely suspension from the Final of their most important outfield player, Michael Ballack – three goals scored and four created – was, of course, a serious blow. But even with Ballack pushing forward from midfield, it is still debatable whether Germany would have got the better of the superior individual talent of Brazil.

Hero of the nation and freshly installed freeman of his home city of Hanau near Frankfurt, Voller hardly put a foot wrong in the Far East. Arguably, his key achievement was the assured way he handled his man-management duties.

The Germans have a long tradition of unruly camps at major international tournaments, of coaches losing control as tabloids run stories of wild parties, and cliques and irrepressible egos threaten team harmony.

Not at World Cup 2002, though. This was the quietest, most unified squad on record, and for that Voller merits the highest praise.

Unlike previous national team bosses Erich Ribbeck and Berti Vogts, Voller has a great relationship with

his players. He treats them as adults; they fully respect him and his choices. For instance, when Voller laid down the law that no squad member was to discuss tactics, there was not a murmur. It would not have happened with Vogts or Ribbeck.

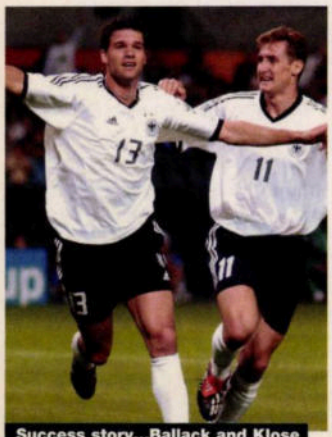
Voller and his meticulous assistant, ex-Dortmund boss Michael Skibbe, also had an outstanding World Cup tactically, especially when successfully switching from 3-5-2 to 4-4-2 for the semi-final with South Korea.

"Germany had to negate the threat of Korea's attacking game, their three out-and-out forwards – and he got his tactics absolutely correct," declared Bayern Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld. "It was great to see how well the midfield worked defensively. The gameplan was right, and the players carried it out to the letter. Rudi Voller has shown what a good understanding he has of the game. He is the best coach Germany could ask for."

Amid all the World Cup euphoria, there was one item of bad news. During the tournament German footballing legend Fritz Walter died at 81. The captain of the West German side that beat Hungary in the 1954 World Cup Final, this outstanding inside-forward won 61 caps, scoring 33 goals. He spent his entire club career with Kaiserslautern, where his strikerate was an incredible 306 goals in 379 games.

"I'm very sad and will always have a memory of him in my heart," said Kaiserslautern striker Klose. "Since coming to the club, I became friends with him. He was a massive personality. He achieved so much, and no one will ever forget him."

● *Obituary, page 12.*



Success story...Ballack and Klose

Pro-file Christoph Metzelder

Dortmund defender set for a glittering international career

HOW fitting that German World Cup revelation Christoph Metzelder should have a lucky charm in the form of a figurine of his boyhood idol – the former *Nationalmannschaft* star Karl-Heinz Forster. Forster was one of Germany's best post-war stoppers, winning 81 caps. Judging by 21-year-old Metzelder's fine defensive performances in South Korea and Japan this summer, a similarly long international career could be his, too.

In normal circumstances, Metzelder, who made his national team debut in August 2001 after only 20 Bundesliga starts for Borussia Dortmund, would not have been on the field in the Far East. But with defensive regulars Jens Nowotny, Christian Worns and Jorg Heinrich ruled out before the tournament and Marko Rehmer struggling with fitness, coach Rudi Voller had no choice but to turn to Metzelder.

The youngster then proved he was up to the mark throughout the competition, accomplished either on the left of a back three or at left-back and defying those who thought he was too raw and too prone to be caught out in one-on-one situations.

It was not solely the brilliance of keeper Oliver Kahn that rendered the German rearguard so watertight and made them surprise World Cup runners-up. The defensive unit of Carsten Ramelow, Thomas Linke and Metzelder was equally outstanding, with the latter deserving special praise for his maturity, pace, combativity and aerial power.

"Christoph was sensational last season as Dortmund won the Bundesliga and he took that form into the World Cup," says Voller. "He has made a remarkable breakthrough into the national team. He has all the qualities a top-class defender needs. He's quick, two-footed, strong in the tackle and in the air. We need more players like him in Germany.

"He does lack experience and can give away possession at times. But, above all, there is this great solidity about his defensive game. I don't think he realises his tremendous potential. He has a fine future."

No wonder Metzelder admits he has not yet fully come to terms with all he has achieved in his short career. Only two years ago, he was playing in the Third Division for Preussen Munster, but a £120,000 move to Borussia Dortmund in June 2000 provided him with a vital stepping stone. From there, a combination of talent, drive and good fortune sent him on his way to the very top. The *Dortmunder* coaches' original intention was for him to watch and learn from the bench. But injuries to first-team defenders Stefan Reuter and Worns prompted a rethink, and he was thrown in at the deep end at the start of the 2000-01 season. Metzelder performed so competently alongside veteran Jurgen Kohler at the heart of the back line that coach Matthias Sammer simply could not discard him.

Fact file

Club Borussia Dortmund
Country Germany
Born November 5, 1980, in Haltern
Previous clubs TuS Haltern, Schalke, Preussen Munster
International debut August 2001, v Hungary
International caps 10 (0 goals)
Honours German League 2002

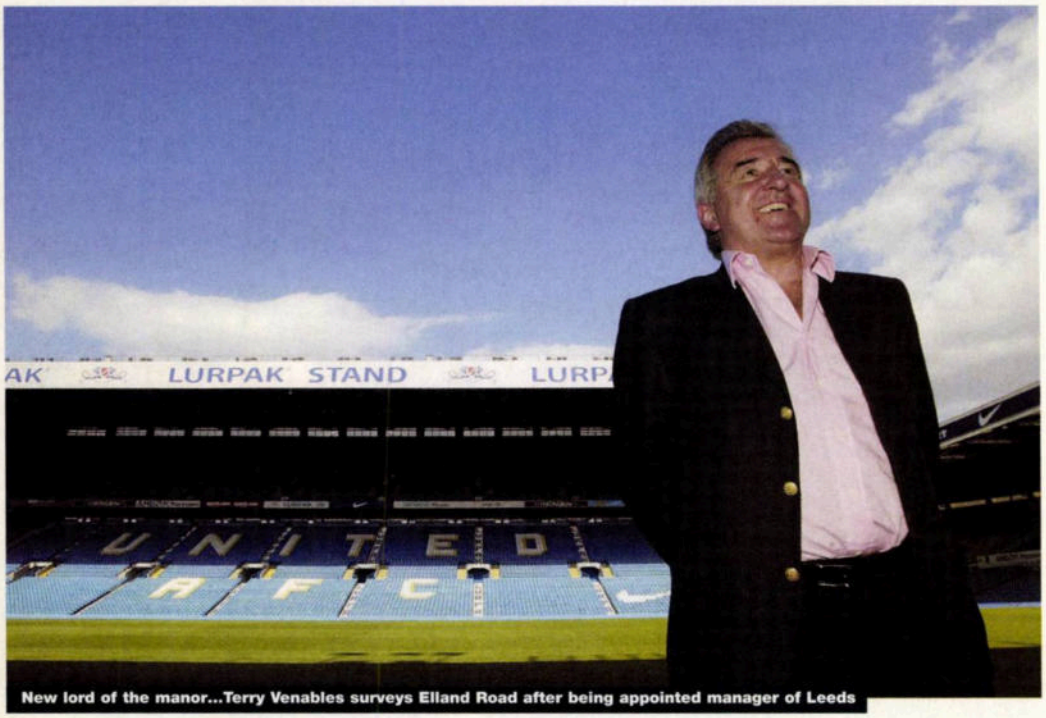
Such has been the youngster's rapid progress over the past two years that Real Madrid were recently rumoured to be preparing a £13.3 million bid for him. However, the Spaniards may find this a hard deal to broker.

"I'm not thinking about a move," insists Metzelder, a personable, level-headed character who is a church-goer and keen on politics. "I have a contract with Borussia until 2005, and that's all that counts. I feel very good in Dortmund and I know I owe Borussia an awful lot. I've had great teachers in coach Sammer and Jurgen Kohler, who has been a tremendous role model for me.

"Anyway, I've still much more to learn. I still need to work on my heading and my tactical appreciation."

He's too critical.

Nick Bidwell



New lord of the manor...Terry Venables surveys Elland Road after being appointed manager of Leeds

Leeds gamble on Venables

The former England manager is a surprise choice to replace O'Leary at Elland Road, writes Gavin Hamilton

TERRY VENABLES, former novelist, bar owner, TV analyst, disqualified company director and occasional coach, is back at football's coalface as the new manager of Leeds.

Venables was the surprise choice to succeed David O'Leary, who was sacked in June after failing, for the second season running, to take Leeds into the Champions League.

Leeds turned to Venables after the man believed to be their first choice, Martin O'Neill of Celtic – who first turned down the chance to take charge at Elland Road four years ago when manager of Leicester City – insisted he would see out the remaining year of his contract with the Scottish champions. Middlesbrough manager Steve McClaren was also considered, but Leeds would have had to pay Boro a hefty sum in compensation to release him.

By contrast, Venables, 59, was available for work after securing an amicable ending of his contract as an ITV pundit. It is more than a decade since Venables last won silverware, the 1991 FA Cup with Spurs. Despite indifferent results with Australia, Portsmouth and Crystal Palace, his achievement of saving Middlesbrough from relegation in 2001 was enough to persuade Leeds that he can still cut it on the frontline.

Venables' first task is to recoup some of the £60 million spent by O'Leary in the past four years. Indeed, O'Leary's abrupt departure was preceded by intense speculation that Manchester United had bid £35million for Rio Ferdinand.

Leeds chairman Peter Ridsdale cited "off-field" pressures for O'Leary's dismissal. While the bad press emanating from the court case involving Lee Bowyer and Jonathan Woodgate harmed the Leeds cause, O'Leary's biggest mistake was to fail to repay the board's investment in new players by qualifying for the Champions League last season. Leeds recently raised £60m through a bond issue, and the pressure is now on to keep up the high-interest repayments.

Venables has been told he must recoup at least £15m in the transfer market. He could do this by selling players such as Bowyer, who was set to join Liverpool, and Olivier Dacourt, in whom Juventus are interested, but whether he would be allowed to spend the money from other sales – Ferdinand, for example – is open to question.

"It's no secret that we have to raise £15m before we start spending again," Venables acknowledged. "I'd like to keep everyone here, but the reality is different."

Even with the departures, Venables is left with a talented squad of young players with which to challenge Arsenal and Manchester United. "My challenge here is to create a team others fear playing," he said. "There is no better feeling in the game."

But for all the tough talk and cockney charm, Venables' coaching career has always been a case of what might have been. "I have unfinished business as a club manager in England," he admitted. "I have never had a proper opportunity to win the top honours at club level here."

The feeling also persists that Venables has never quite relinquished his ambition to return to the England job, which he left abruptly in 1996 in order to pursue his legal and financial battles. He has signed only a two-year deal, suggesting that both he and Leeds see his appointment as a short-term marriage of convenience.

SCOTLAND

O'Neill stays at Celtic

CELTIC will begin their defence of the League championship secure in the knowledge that manager Martin O'Neill has decided to remain at the club.

Reports during the close season suggested that the highly regarded O'Neill was set to take charge of Leeds United following the dismissal of David O'Leary. However, O'Neill made it clear that he intended honouring his contract with Celtic and build on the success of his first two years in charge.

If O'Neill is going to take Celtic forward at European level, it appears he intends doing so without significantly strengthening his squad. The Parkhead boss had made only one signing of note by mid-July, acquiring Livingston and former Deportivo La Coruna striker David Fernandes for £1million.

Across Glasgow at Rangers, manager Alex McLeish had made two major signings by press time, bringing in 29-year-old Australia midfielder or defender Kevin Muscat from Wolverhampton Wanderers and 20-year-old Spanish midfielder Mikel Arteta from Barcelona.

Muscat is known as an uncompromising tackler and is likely to be given a defensive role, while Arteta, who has been on an extended loan at Paris Saint-Germain, is expected to form a central midfield partnership with Barry Ferguson.

Elsewhere, Dundee have appointed Jim Duffy for his second spell in charge following the acrimonious departure of Italian Ivano Bonetti. Chairman Peter Marr criticised Bonetti for "failing to show enough respect for Scottish football".

The national team's Far East tour at the end of May provided little encouragement to the fans who had hoped that Berti Vogts would rejuvenate the country's footballing fortunes. The German coach's young charges lost 4-1 to South Korea and 2-0 to South Africa before defeating a Hong Kong Select XI 4-0.

Alan Fairley

WALES

Relegation wrangle goes on

LAST season's relegation issue remained unresolved as the clubs involved began preparing for the new campaign.

Haverfordwest County and Rhayader Town finished in the bottom two places in the top flight, while Welshpool Town won the Second Level Northern promotion slot and Ton Pentre took the Southern place. However, both lower division clubs were refused entry to the top level as their grounds failed to meet National League criteria, now incorporating some requirements from the UEFA Licensing Procedure.

Ton Pentre accepted the decision, thus allowing Haverfordwest to stay up. However, Welshpool appealed and won, despite their ground being well below par. This relegated Rhayader, who have themselves now lodged an appeal.

The possibility exists of the League extending to 19 clubs, causing more chaos as the fixtures have already been issued.

Caersws' European campaign was brief, but they exited with heads held high. The mid-Wales village side lost 2-0 away to Bulgarians Marek in the first leg of their InterToto Cup tie, a deficit that proved too great to overcome. Graham Evans scored early in the return leg, but Marek equalised shortly after half-time to go through 3-1 on aggregate.

Mel Thomas

N IRELAND

Cliftonville pick up Tabb

CLIFTONVILLE'S Lawrence Stitt became the first managerial casualty of the close season in the wake of his side's mid-table finish last term. He has been replaced by Marty Tabb, who played in Cliftonville's defence for over a decade and was a member of the 1998 League title-winning side.

Struggling Crusaders were dealt a blow when manager Gary McCartney resigned after learning of the club's severe budgetary constraints for next season. The popular McCartney had been in charge at Seaview for two years, but his ambitions had been thwarted by mounting financial problems.

Ards will play next season's home matches at Carrickfergus, 20 miles away, while their new stadium is being constructed.

Roy Kitson

I'm still here...O'Neill tells the media he won't be leaving Parkhead

Pro-file Salif Diao

Sedan's 'Vieira' set for move to Liverpool

SENEGAL defensive midfielder Salif Diao will leave behind many admirers when he quits French club Sedan for Liverpool in a £5million deal next December. "We're all very sad to lose Salif," says Sedan striker Cedric Mionnet. "For the past two years, he's been one of our most consistent players. He is an incredible force of nature, athletic, hard-working, a great ball-winner. He gives tremendous protection to the defence and can drive forward, too.

"Despite being quite reserved by nature, he is still a leader on the pitch, as was evident during his excellent displays for Senegal at the World Cup. I know the English love Patrick Vieira, and Salif is a lot like him."

Vieira and Diao do have much in common. They come from the same background – both were born in Senegal but were products of the French footballing system; both are in their mid-20s, powerfully built and fiercely competitive, and both are at their best deep in central midfield.

Unlike Vieira, however, Diao has only started to come into his own in the past couple of years. A graduate of Monaco's football academy in Dakar, he joined the Monte Carlo club at 18 in late 1995, only to be immediately shipped out on loan to Second Division Epinal. He was recalled to the Monegasque squad at the start of the 1997-98 campaign, but it never quite worked out. Over the next three seasons injury problems and competition for places in defensive midfield from Sylvain Legwinski, Costinha, Martin Djetou and Sabri Lamouchi restricted him to just 17 top-flight games.

So Diao jumped at the chance to move north to Sedan in summer 2000. The move was the watershed of his career. While Monaco regarded him strictly as back-up material, Sedan bought him to play, and he responded by becoming an indispensable figure.

"Salif just needed to feel wanted in order to flourish," explains ex-Sedan boss Alex Dupont. "At Sedan he had the chance to play week in, week out and he hasn't stopped improving since."

Not only that, but Diao has even added marksmanship to his repertoire, scoring twice as Senegal reached the African Nations Cup Final in Mali and capping a flowing pitch-length move with an outstanding finish against Denmark at the World Cup.

More of the same would be very welcome at Anfield.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Sedan (Fra)
Country Senegal
Born February 10, 1977, in Kedougou
Previous clubs Epinal (Fra), Monaco (Fra)
International debut February 1997, v Morocco
International caps 22 (3 goals)
Honours French League 2000

Hiddink heads home

After his exploits with South Korea, the coach returns to PSV. Klaas-Jan Droppert reports

HOLLAND

WORLD CUP hero Guus Hiddink has returned to PSV Eindhoven, who he steered to European Cup triumph in 1988. The man who led co-hosts South Korea to the semi-finals this summer succeeds Eric Gerets, his skipper in 1988, who was sacked after a second clash with his squad within a year. The situation exploded during a post-season trip to China, where the players again made it clear that they no longer had confidence in his coaching ability.

Hiddink's successful run at the World Cup meant negotiations with PSV were delayed. But eventually they reached agreement on a two-year contract.

"They say you should never go back to where you came from, but for me this return is a positive one," said Hiddink, who also reached the semi-finals of France 98 when coach of the Dutch national team.

Frank Rijkaard, another former Holland boss, has had a rough time in recent weeks. Days before the last match of the promotion/relegation play-offs, the Sparta Rotterdam boss received an envelope containing a bullet and the message to quit his job. Despite the threat, he decided to lead his team against Den Haag. However, his presence was not enough to prevent Sparta losing 3-1 and suffer the drop for the first time in their 114-year history. Rijkaard duly quit, despite having two years left on his contract. Den Bosch also went down after the play-offs, with Excelsior, Feyenoord's satellite club, and RBC Roosendaal their replacements.

Paul Krabbe has been sacked as coach of FC Zwolle, despite having just led them to the top flight as Second Division champions. In other coaching changes, De Graafschap swapped Jurrie Koolhof for Peter Bosz, Wiljan Vloet will succeed Georges Leekens at Roda JC, and Vitesse found an internal solution by replacing Mike Snoei with Edward Sturing. John Van't Schip has resigned at Twente, while Frans Adelaar decided to quit Utrecht since there is no money to improve the squad.

Utrecht are not the only club in financial difficulties. Vitesse had to sell Remco Van der Schaaf (to PSV), Mahamadou Diarra (Lyon) and Michel Kreek (AEK Athens) in order to wipe out enough of their debt to receive a licence for next season.

My world...Hiddink's Korean fairytale is over and a new story begins

Anderlecht have appointed Hugo Broos to succeed Anthuenis, with former international stalwart Lorenzo Staelens replacing Broos at Mouscron for his first coaching job.

Gent were another club to name a new coach, Dutchman Jan Olde Riekerink, who got off to a fine start by leading his new charges into the third round of the InterToto Cup. Gent survived a surprisingly tricky tie with Ireland's St Patrick's Athletic, going through only on away goals after a 3-3 aggregate draw.

Second Division champions Mechelen finally confirmed their place among the elite next season after winning their second appeal to have their licence renewed. Meanwhile, Mons won the play-offs to earn promotion to the First Division for the first time.

Beveren will be among their opponents, despite finishing bottom of the table last term. They stay up because RWD Molenbeek were refused a new licence in light of their vast debts. Eendracht Aalst, who would have been relegated anyway, drop to the Third Division after they also had a licence refused.

Nicholas Harling

SWITZERLAND

Indebted clubs demoted

THE FA's crackdown on heavily indebted clubs has meant that First Division sides Lausanne and Sion were refused licences to continue in the top flight and demoted after they failed to provide the required financial guarantees.

Lugano, another financially troubled club, voluntarily opted to be relegated in the hope that playing at a lower level would aid their planned restructuring. Lugano, who finished third in the top flight last season and are in the UEFA Cup, are still trying to shake off the traumatic aftermath of the suspected suicide of club president Helios Jermini, who incurred debts of over £4.5million.

Aarau and Lucerne, both demoted after the promotion/relegation play-offs, now retain their top-flight places, with Second Division Delemont filling the third vacancy.

Servette coach Lucien Favre returned from a scouting trip to South America to find he had been sacked after a players' revolt against

At odds...Prendergast and Wilmots

BELGIUM

Anthuenis the natural choice

AIME ANTHUENIS, who made his name by leading Genk and Anderlecht to successive League titles, has been named successor to Robert Waseige as national team coach. As the Belgian League's most successful coach over the past five seasons, the affable 58-year-old was the obvious choice. Anthuenis has a two-year contract until the end of the Euro 2004 finals.

Waseige had come in for much criticism for informing his players before the World Cup that he would be taking over as coach of Standard Liege this season. Critics felt the timing of the announcement was detrimental to Belgium's chances.

With this in mind, the national side's performance in Asia – when they reached the second round and were unlucky to go out to Brazil – was all the more laudable.

Meanwhile, the storm is still raging about what, if anything, was said between Marc Wilmots and Jamaican referee Peter Prendergast during half-time of the Brazil game. The Belgian had a goal ruled out during the first half, and Wilmots alleges that at the interval Prendergast admitted it should have stood after seeing television replays. The referee claims no such conversation took place.

his authoritarian style. His successor, former Lugano boss Roberto Morinini, got off to a painful start in the League when his highly-paid charges were beaten 2-0 by newcomers Delemont.

In other first-round action, champions Basle were unimpressive when winning 1-0 at Aarau, Zurich thrashed former champions St Gallen 3-0 away, and Grasshopper strolled to a 4-1 home win over Wil 1900, making their First Division debut after 102 years. Evergreen Stephane Chapuisat, 32, was back to his goalscoring ways with new club Young Boys, netting late on in the 2-2 draw against Lucerne.

Ivar von Rulach

Trouble brewing...Joao Pinto is sent off

PORTUGAL

Oliveira ousted

NATIONAL team coach Antonio Oliveira was sacked by fax on his return to Portugal after failing to guide his side through the group stage of the World Cup.

Oliveira had a contract until the end of the Euro 2004 finals, to be staged by Portugal, but the dismal showing in Asia – where Portugal lost to the United States and South Korea, beating Poland in between – made his position untenable. Federation president Gilberto Madail said: "Conditions do not exist for him to remain in his job."

Madail's own roles as federation president and as chairman of the Euro 2004 organising body came under pressure in the wake of the World Cup fiasco. Government officials believe he should no longer hold the positions, though Madail is adamant that he will continue.

The president and forward Joao Pinto received particularly hostile receptions as the World Cup party arrived back at Lisbon airport. Joao Pinto was singled out following his sending-off against South Korea and consequent set-to with Argentinian referee Angel Sanchez.

Portugal went into the tournament as potential winners, yet the ageing central defensive partnership of Jorge Costa and Fernando Couto were not good enough, and goalkeeper Vitor Baia was clearly past his best. Rui Costa was tired and struggling with injuries after a frustrating season at Milan, while Luis Figo seemed a shadow of his former self, exhausted after a long season with Real Madrid.

There were some bright spots – the performances of Sergio Conceicao and Pauleta for example – but far too few to compensate for what was a disastrous campaign.

Alberto da Silva

REP OF IRELAND

Independent sought for World Cup probe

THE FAI has asked the Irish Sports Council to appoint an independent chairman to review its World Cup involvement after accepting it did not have proper crisis management mechanisms in place in Saipan when the Roy Keane affair boiled over.

St Patrick's Athletic, who lost out on the 2001-02 League title after having points deducted for fielding an ineligible player, recorded their first win in Europe by beating Rijeka of Croatia 1-0 in the InterToto Cup.

Sean Creedon

LUXEMBOURG

Title hat-trick for Dudelange

F91 DUDELANGE became champions for the third successive season after seeing off the challenge of Grevenmacher with a 2-0 win in the penultimate round of the play-offs.

Hobscheid and Etzella Ettelbruck were relegated and replaced by Wiltz 71, after one season away, and UN Kaerjeng, in the top flight for the first time.

Tim Brice

Pro-file John O'Brien

American hitting the heights after going Dutch

BILL O'BRIEN achieved success as a businessman by creating a leading American brand of ice-lolly; now his son John has been making a mark of his own as one of the mainstays of the United States soccer team, which surpassed all expectations by reaching the last eight at World Cup 2002.

In years to come, the Ajax midfielder will look back fondly on the 2001-02 season as the one when everything fell into place. After five years working his way through the ranks at the Amsterdam club, the Californian finally established himself as a first-team regular and played an important part in the club's League and Cup double. In Korea/Japan, he answered all those who once doubted his ability to make the international grade.

O'Brien is a thoroughly versatile performer, capable of filling a number of midfield positions as well as full-back for Ajax. But the senior US coaching staff appeared less than convinced about his abilities. They noted how he was often injured, wanted to see more of him as an attacking force and were frustrated when Ajax blocked his participation in friendlies and training camps.

O'Brien appeared in only six of his country's 16 World Cup qualifiers, but as reports of his derring-do at Ajax piled up, USA coach Bruce Arena came to realise this was one player he could not do without in the Far East. So it proved. O'Brien was inspirational on the left of midfield, bright, busy and obviously a graduate of the Ajax school of advanced-level passing. He put the US ahead in their shock 3-2 win against Portugal and set up Clint Mathis' goal in the 1-1 draw with South Korea.

"I predicted John would have a great World Cup, and he proved me right," says USA skipper Claudio Reyna. "He's awesome and makes the team that much better. Ajax don't pick just anyone."

After showing up well at a soccer school at California's Burbank University, the young O'Brien was recommended to Ajax by a member of staff with Dutch connections. Aged 14, he went on a three-week training programme in Amsterdam, the club kept tabs on him, and two years later asked him back for a trial, which he sailed through to earn a place in Ajax's youth system.

By 1998, O'Brien had shown enough to be offered a contract, though he was then loaned to Utrecht and, on his return, had to make do with a bit-part role. Only last term did he become a permanent fixture.

"You have to give all the credit to Johnny for making it at Ajax," says fellow US team-mate Earnie Stewart, who was raised in Holland. "He's done it all by himself."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Ajax (Hol)
Country United States
Born August 29, 1977, in Los Angeles
International debut April 1998, v Austria
International caps 18 (2 goals)
Honours Dutch League 2002; Dutch Cup 2002

Laudrup kicks up Brondby storm

The new coach has shown a previously unknown ruthless streak, writes Jim Holden

DENMARK

MICHAEL LAUDRUP has entered the world of football management with a ruthlessness far removed from his image as one of the gentlemen of European soccer, a man whose biography was called *Ambassador*. A mere four days after starting as coach of Danish champions Brondby he had sacked a third of the first-team squad – including Magnus Svensson, Kenneth Rasmussen, Oumar Barro, Peter Foldgast, Mikkel Jensen and Peter Degn – delivering the shock news via the media rather than telling the players personally.

The decision, and its manner, left Danish football astonished and opinion divided about whether or not Laudrup will prove a good coach. Many critics said his actions had been naive and cowardly. But others saw it as a way of Laudrup swiftly establishing that, as the boss, he cannot be viewed as a nice guy by the players.

It was left to Brondby's long-serving director Per Bjerregaard to try to repair the PR damage to the club. "We must get these misunderstandings sorted out," he said. "I will have a meeting with all the players at the beginning of next week. If Laudrup does not want to meet them, I will. It is obvious that we want to help the players who have done a good job for us for a long time."

Laudrup and his assistant, former Danish international team-mate John Jensen, were in no mood to back down as the storm raged. "There are simply too many demotivated people here who feel they are so far from the first team that they have no goal to fight for," said Laudrup.

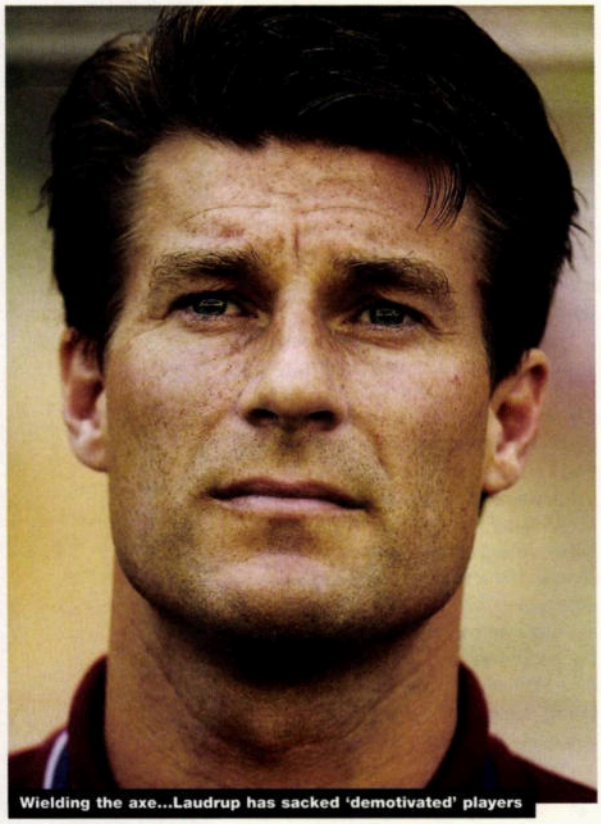
Jensen, who coached Herfolge to the League title a couple of seasons ago, added: "Some footballers are spoilt kids."

Watching Laudrup's leadership of Brondby should be fascinating. He has taken over a club led from non-league to the top flight in Denmark by his father, Finn, and which has also been managed by Morten Olsen, to whom Laudrup junior has been assistant coach with the Danish national side for the past two years.

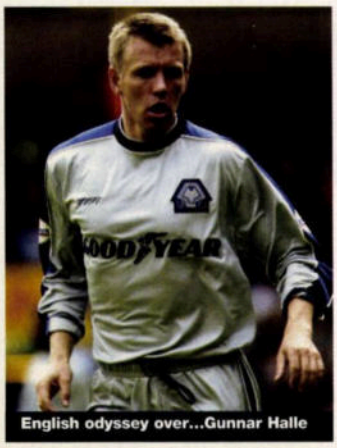
Another shock for the Danish game was an assault charge levelled against international midfielder Stig Tofting after an unsavoury incident at a restaurant in central Copenhagen during a gathering to say farewell to the national team's chef. Tofting was arrested after two men were injured and is due to face trial in October, with several team-mates likely to be called as witnesses.

Olsen is to stay on as national coach for another four years, being one of the few World Cup managers whose reputation has been left untarnished by the tournament.

In the Superliga, the two newcomers are Koge and Farum. Koge announced ambitious plans to build a new £10m stadium, while Farum have signed goalkeeper Jorgen Nielsen from Liverpool.



Wielding the axe...Laudrup has sacked 'demotivated' players



English odyssey over...Gunnar Halle

NORWAY

Lyn stay aloft

AT the halfway point of the League season, Lyn of Oslo were still heading the table, defying those who had dismissed their chances of putting in a serious championship challenge after their early flurry of victories.

Head coach Sture Fladmark, appointed on a temporary basis after the departure of Stuart Baxter, remained resolute, and as the short summer break started, Lyn had a five-point lead over second-placed Molde.

Despite Fladmark's success, Lyn appointed Croatian Hrvoje Braovic, formerly with Dinamo Zagreb, as permanent coach in early July, though Fladmark will stay on as his assistant.

Last season's runners-up, Lillestrom, have had a disappointing campaign, largely because of injuries and limited finances. However, the squad has been boosted by the return of veteran Gunnar Halle, who played 346 League matches during his 11-and-a-half year career in England, a record for a Norwegian player in that country.

Another veteran, goalkeeper Frode Grodaas, has also returned to Norway after many years abroad with English and German clubs. Having spent recent seasons mainly on the bench, he is now first choice with Second Division promotion candidates FK Honefoss.

After a mediocre first half, Viking have decided against renewing the contract of Swedish coach Benny Lennartson beyond the end of the season. The new man will be Kjell Inge Olsen, formerly with Vidar.

Start coach Jan Halvor Halvorsen has finally been forced to leave after struggling all season in the face of severe financial constraints. Iceland's Gudjon Thordarson has been brought in to try to save the club from relegation.

Brann, another financially troubled club, seem to have found good replacements for Thorstein Helstad and Raymond Kvisvik, who were sold recently to Austria Wien. South African Toni Nhleko and Costa Rican Alonso Solis both scored in the 4-1 home win against Molde and showed they have some real flair. Nhleko's goal was a classic, coming after a dazzling run from his own half in which he left several Molde players trailing.

A players' strike in June as part of wider action by the ISU – the union for many Norwegian sportsmen – meant the cancellation of a round of League games in the two highest divisions. Insurance and contractual issues were at the heart of the dispute.

Sigurd Odegaard

SWEDEN

Uhrin in at AIK

DUSAN UHRIN, who steered the Czech Republic to the Euro 96 Final, has taken over at AIK. He is the Solna club's third coach in quick succession, after Olle Nordin and Peter Larsson.

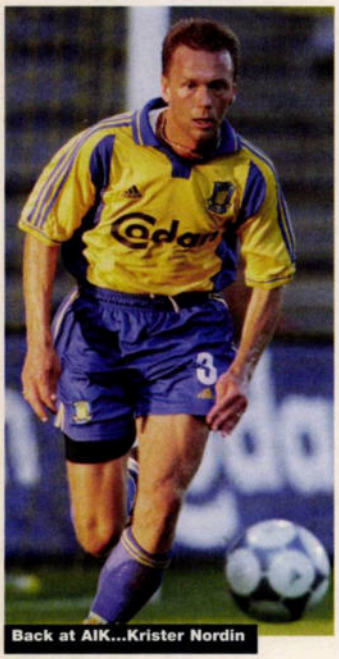
Uhrin faces a tough challenge. AIK have slipped badly in the table and returned to action after the World Cup break with a 2-1 defeat at Helsingborgs.

The club have been active in the transfer market, though, bringing home former captain Krister Nordin from Brondby and defender Gary Sundgren from Real Zaragoza. AIK were also boosted by an indication

from forward Andreas Andersson – one of Sweden's best players in Korea/Japan – that he might be interested in staying at the club in spite of lucrative offers from abroad.

"At this stage in my career, money isn't the all-deciding factor," said the former IFK Gothenburg, Milan and Newcastle player. "AIK have been good to me and I feel perfectly at home in Stockholm."

City rivals Djurgardens have issued a get-tough policy against players whose contracts are due to expire but have been reluctant to open new negotiations. The first victim has been midfielder


Back at AIK...Krister Nordin

Abgar Barsom, who has been frozen out of first-team action. Djurgardens have brought back former striker Samuel Wowoah from Halmstads, perhaps to underline to Barsom that they mean business.

Orgryte have boosted their attack by signing Brazilians Afonso and Paulinho Guara from Atletico Mineiro, while Norrkoping have a new coach in Hakan Ericsson.

Pentti Hietanen

FINLAND

Old 'uns still good 'uns

VETERANS continue to dominate Finland's scoring charts, as FC Haka's Russian striker Valery Popovitch and Inter Turku's Swede Richard Teberio chase top marksman Petteri Kaijasilta, of AC Allianssi.

Teberio, 31, is of Spanish-Filipino origins, a former Swedish youth international, and also has had a spell with Croatia Zagreb.

With Teberio's goal instincts as sharp as ever, Inter are a good tip for the League title. They have no fewer than four Argentinians on their books, including clever midfielder Aristides Pertot.

In the past, Inter were known as an erratic team who were just as likely to concede a goal as score. However, this season, under pragmatic coach Pertti Lundell, they have the League's best defensive record.

Mikael Forssell's recent knee operation was bad news for the national team as they prepared for the European Championship qualifiers. The Chelsea forward has been ruled out of Finland's opening match, against Wales.

National team stopper Hannu Tihinen finally put an end to all transfer speculation by moving from Norway's Viking to Anderlecht. Tihinen had a dramatic farewell match for the Stavanger club, receiving a head injury that required an operation.

Pentti Hietanen

ICELAND

Bjarki adds bite to IA

DEFENDING champions IA Akranes made a spirited recovery from their disastrous start to the 2002 League campaign.

IA, who occupied bottom place for a number of weeks after taking just two points from their first five games, climbed to the relative safety of mid-table following a run of good results.

The team's renaissance is in no small part due to the return of influential forward Bjarki Gunnlaugsson, who last played for IA in 1995. Forced out at Preston in England by a long-term injury, his haul of five goals in four games helped bring the Akranes side to within six points of leaders KR.

However, with only four points separating the teams in third and bottom spots, the Premier League could be set for one of its tightest finishes in years.

Rab Christie

CROSSWORD mitre

WIN a top-quality Mitre football

Mitre has kindly donated a top-quality football as first prize for this month's crossword. The first correct entry selected at random after August 30 will win the ball. Five runners-up will each win a *World Soccer Yearbook*. SEND YOUR ENTRY TO: AUGUST CROSSWORD, *World Soccer*, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.

ACROSS

1 Lyon centre-back among Scolari's World Cup winners (8)
7 Ivory Coast forward in Feyenoord's 2002 UEFA Cup Final side (5)
8 ----- Traore, veteran Senegalese forward (5)
9 Republic of Ireland centre-back released by Coventry this year (5)
10 Ex-Lillestrom Australian now in the Anderlecht squad (4)
13 French champions in 1997-98 (4)
14 Reigning champions of Switzerland (5)
17 Yugoslav coach reviving the fortunes of Poland's Legia (5)
18 Ex-Schalke defender of Bayern Munich and Germany (5)
19 Norwegian defender back home at Lyn from Frankfurt (8)

DOWN

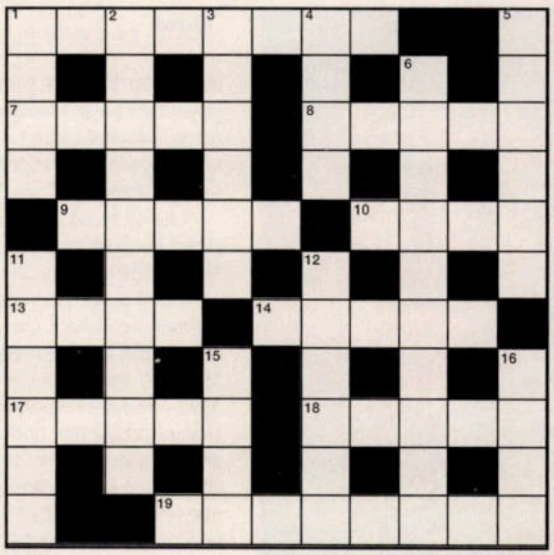
1 German goalkeeper who joined Benfica in 1999 (4)
2 Ex-Lyon midfielder taken to Fulham by Tigana (10)
3 Arsenal's Cameroonian midfielder (6)
4 Versatile Galatasaray man transferred last year to Internazionale (4)
5 One-time Drnovice defender picked up this year by Dinamo Moscow (6)
6 Midfield star of Venezia and Uruguay (10)
11 Goalkeeping hero of Cameroon's African Nations Final win (6)
12 FC Porto's Slovenian midfielder, formerly at Freiburg (6)
15 Auxerre and Senegal midfielder first capped in 2001 (4)
16 Ailing Mexican club not rescued by Babington's return as coach (4)

JUNE SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Palencia, 6 Lyon, 7 Marcos, 9 Suarez, 10 Fatih, 11 Mendy, 14 Napoli, 16 Traore, 17 Xavi, 18 Casillas.
DOWN: 2 Agassa, 3 Cisse, 4 Alvarenga, 5 Pope, 8 Cimirotic, 12 Diarra, 13 Litos, 15 Ajax.

JUNE WINNERS

1st prize: Douglas Thompson, Edinburgh.
5 runners-up: Steve Zolezzi, Missouri, USA; Sean Murray, Co Kildare, Ireland; Scott Davis, Illinois, USA; Sheldon Jaggernauth, Naples, Florida, USA; Patrick Fielosh, Connecticut, USA.



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AUGUST (photocopied coupons are acceptable)

Jozic steps down admitting mistakes

Zdravko Reic on the end of the World Cup coach's reign

CROATIA

MIRKO JOZIC resigned as national team coach in the face of strong media criticism, acknowledging that he made mistakes in the run-up to and during Croatia's short-lived World Cup finals campaign.

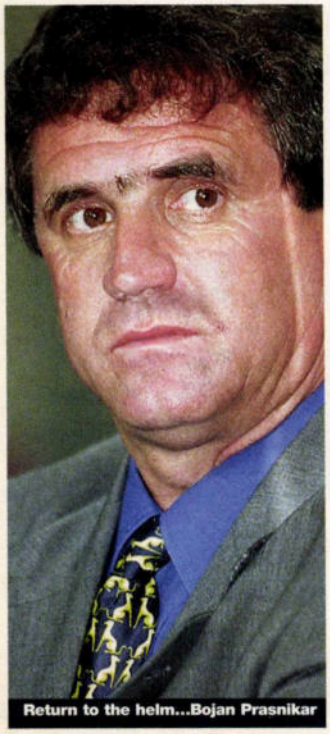
His replacement is the highly experienced Otto Baric, 69, who was in charge of Austria's national side until last November. He stood down after they lost heavily to Turkey in a World Cup qualifying play-off.

Jozic's promise that Croatia would definitely reach the second round in Asia came back to haunt him after his charges lost their final group game to Ecuador to allow Italy to scrape through as runners-up. The coach also recognised that he had been wrong to continue relying on veterans Davor Suker and Robert Prosinecki, who never reappeared after being withdrawn during the first game, against Mexico.

"I knew it would be tough after the early exit, but not so bad. Journalists have torn me apart," Jozic said following his resignation.

Last season's League-winning coach, Zlatko Kranjcar, has taken the reins at Rijeka having left champions Zagreb after a dispute with the board. Ironically, the Rijeka position became vacant after Ivan Katalinic was appointed as Kranjcar's replacement at Zagreb.

Errors of judgment...Mirko Jozic


Return to the helm...Bojan Prasnikar

SLOVENIA

Prasnikar back as national boss

MARIBOR's Bojan Prasnikar has been named national coach for the third time following the resignation of Srecko Katanec.

Katanec stood down on his return from the World Cup after Slovenia lost all three group games.

Prasnikar, 49, led Slovenia twice before Katanec took over – when the country first became independent in 1991 and again for six months in 1998 – and has since won domestic championships with both Maribor and Olimpija Ljubljana. He will continue to coach Maribor until the end of the year in tandem with his new national team duties. This was a stipulation of club president Joza Jagodnik, who wanted Prasnikar to oversee at least the first half of the new League campaign. The champions are set to face a tough title challenge from Olimpija.

Katanec, 38 at the time of the World Cup and the youngest coach at the tournament, defied the odds by taking tiny Slovenia to two major finals – Euro 2000 and Korea/Japan. However, the World Cup campaign fell apart after the coach was forced to send home his best player, Zlatko Zahovic, for indiscipline.

Zdravko Reic

GREECE

Parashos given the push

ATHENS club Akratitos announced they had fired coach Giorgos Parashos just two days before the start of pre-season training. No reason was given.

Parashos had been hired only in February shortly after the death of coach Yiannis Pathiakakis of a heart attack during a training session.

Iraklis have named a former player, Ivan Jovanovic, as coach. The 40-year-old Serb, who was formerly assistant coach at the club, replaces the sacked Angelos Anastasiadis.

Salonika side Aris have appointed Yiannis Firos to replace Austrian Bernd Krauss, who resigned in June. Firos steered Giannina to the Second Division title last term.

Lou Economopoulos

TURKEY

Big three boost squads

THE country's top clubs have already made a number of significant signings over the summer, with Galatasaray leading the way.

The champions have so far brought in two Brazilian midfielders – Fabio Pinto (Internacional) and Jorge Loureiro Felipe (Vasco da Gama) – young Senegalese defender Mohamed Adama Sarr on loan from Milan, and Bosnian striker Elvir Baljic (Real Madrid).

Last season's League runners-up Fenerbahce have signed Brazilian striker Washington from Ponte Preta and Argentinian midfielder Ariel Ortega (River Plate).

UEFA Cup candidates Besiktas have a new goalkeeper in 32-year-old Colombian international Oscar Cordoba, brought in on loan from Boca Juniors after spending six months with Perugia last term. The club have also acquired another South American, Brazilian defender Antonio Carlos Zago from Roma, and former Turkish international midfielder Sergen Yalcin, from Galatasaray.

Hasan Cemali

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Unified league takes shape

THE mood of reconciliation within the country's football has grown after agreement was finally reached on the composition of the new unified league championship. The 20-team division will comprise 14 sides from the joint Muslim-Croat League and six from the Serb Republika Srpska League, which until now has operated as a separate entity within Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In addition, a friendly international between Bosnia-Herzegovina and Yugoslavia is scheduled for August 21 in Sarajevo.

Zdravko Reic

ISRAEL

Grant handed top job

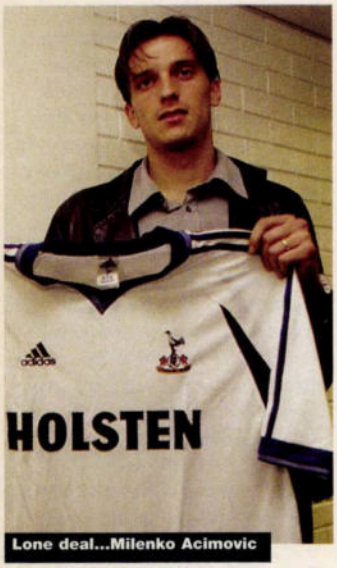
AVRAHAM GRANT has been handed the daunting task of guiding the national team through a Euro 2004 qualifying group containing France and Slovenia following the resignation of Richard Moller Nielsen. The Dane quit after Israel's 7-1 drubbing by Germany in a pre-World Cup friendly.

Grant, who guided Maccabi Haifa to the Premier League title last season, became the FA's favoured candidate after Hapoel Tel Aviv coach Dror Kashtan turned down the job.

Former national team assistant coach Yitzhak Shum has replaced Grant at Maccabi Haifa, while Nir Levin has left Cup winners Maccabi Tel Aviv to return to his former club Hapoel Petach Tikva. Maccabi's former captain Nir Klinger will coach the Tel Aviv outfit in his place.

The police are still investigating alleged match-rigging by a number of top referees, whose names have been linked to illegal betting rings.

Derek Fattal



Lone deal...Milenko Acimovic

YUGOSLAVIA

Foreign interest dries up

THE days when the best Yugoslavian League players were in a position to choose between moves to rich clubs in England, Italy, Spain, Germany or France are clearly over. By mid-July this year only Red Star's Slovenian international Milenko Acimovic had been signed up by one of the Big Five leagues, joining Tottenham.

There has been disappointment on the field in Europe. Obilic exited the InterToto Cup at the first round stage, losing 3-2 on aggregate to Finland's FC Haka.

Vladimir Novak

MALTA

Birkirkara come good

BIRKIRKARA dominated the final few weeks of the 2001-02 season by lifting the Rothmans FA Trophy (the national Cup) and the Rothmans Super Cup. The Stripes salvaged some consolation from an injury-ravaged season by beating League runners-up Sliema Wanderers 1-0 in the FA Trophy Final, thanks to a Matthew Calascione goal. It was the first time the club had won the tournament.

Four days later, Birkirkara got the better of new League champions Hibernians in the Super Cup. Again, a single goal sufficed, this time from Matthew Galea.

Hibernians striker Adrian Mifsud has been voted Malta's Footballer of the Year following his 27-goal haul for the champions last season.

Valletta have sacked Bulgarian coach Georgi Deanov after winning nothing this season. His replacement is ex-Valletta player Dennis Fenech.

A former Valletta boss, Edward Aquilina, is now in charge of Sliema. Aquilina made an immediate impact by making the surprise signing of Birkirkara skipper Joe Brincat, as well as Floriana's Brazilian forward Bizu. In another coaching change, Ray Farrugia has succeeded Patrick Curmi at Pieta Hotspurs.

Domenico Aquilina

ALBANIA

Dossena takes the reins

ITALIAN Giuseppe Dossena has been appointed to lead the national team into the Euro 2004 qualifying campaign. He replaces Sulejman Demollari, who was fired after Albania's humiliating 2-0 defeat by Andorra in an April friendly.

Dossena, a former Italian international, was assistant to compatriot Cesare Maldini with Paraguay at this summer's World Cup.

Michael Bowesfield

Pro-file Ilhan Mansiz

Turkish star forward staying put at Besiktas

WILL Besiktas be able to hang on to Turkish striker Ilhan Mansiz now that he has returned from the World Cup as a fully-fledged international marksman?

Thanks to his golden goal winner against Senegal in the quarter-final and two more expertly taken goals as Turkey edged out South Korea 3-2 in the third-place play-off, the 26-year-old has become a tempting target for clubs from Spain, Italy and Germany.

But according to Besiktas vice-president Yildirim Demirorean, he is strictly off limits. "It's natural that a lot of clubs want him," says Demirorean. "He was the [joint] top scorer in the Turkish League last season and had a great World Cup. But we have no desire to do business. He's not for sale. Ilhan is the focal point of the team. Our aim for next season is to win the Turkish title in our centenary year, and his goalscoring ability will be vital."

Like many of the current Turkish squad, Ilhan Mansiz was born and raised in Germany, hailing from Kempten in Bavaria. As a youngster he played up front for Munich amateur side Turkgucu and Third Division Augsburg, but after an unsuccessful trial for Bundesliga side Koln, he opted to move to Turkey in early 1998.

After touting himself at a number of clubs, he was taken on by Samsunspor. He did not make any great impact at first, but as his movement and skills improved, so did his finishing. Ilhan averaged the decent tally of 11 goals over the 1999-00 and 2000-01 seasons, on the back of which he earned a move to Besiktas in summer 2001.

The club's then coach, German Christoph Daum, is a master of making good players even better, and the hours he spent schooling Ilhan in the art of goalscoring certainly paid off. Daum was sacked at the end of the season, but in Ilhan, he left quite a legacy.

"Ilhan was always keen to improve, and often I gave him extra sessions to work on his shooting, passing and heading," says Daum. "It's good to see how he has progressed. Apart from the third-place game, Turkey always used him as a substitute, but soon he will be a certain starter."

The key for Ilhan will be how he copes with his new-found celebrity. With football fans agog at his scoring exploits and a legion of female admirers in love with his looks, Turkey's answer to David Beckham will have to tread carefully.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Besiktas
Country Turkey
Born August 10, 1975, in Kempten, Germany
Previous clubs Turkgucu (Ger), Augsburg (Ger), Samsunspor
International debut October 2001, v Moldova
International caps 12 (5 goals)

Gazzayev the choice for club and country

Romantsev's successor as national coach will continue with CSKA Moscow, writes Victor Gusev

RUSSIA

VALERI GAZZAYEV, of CSKA Moscow, has been appointed national team coach following the resignation of Oleg Romantsev after the disappointing World Cup campaign.

Romantsev remained true to character up until his last day in the Russia job. Renowned for not attending post-game press conferences, he failed to show up when summoned by the Football Union's executive council to explain Russia's performance in Japan. In Romantsev's absence, the council accepted his resignation and named 48-year-old Gazzayev as his successor on a four-year contract.

Romantsev quit after his side failed to qualify from what was called the World Cup's 'Group of Life'; Russia lost to Japan and Belgium after opening with a win over Tunisia. He signed another five-year contract with Moscow Spartak – the club he managed in tandem with Russia – immediately after returning home.

Spartak, nine times national champions, have little chance of making it 10 this year, while CSKA, the Red Army team, are among the leading candidates to win the title for what would be the first time. With this in mind, Gazzayev and CSKA president Yevgeni Giner made it clear to Football Union president Vyacheslav Koloskov that the coach would not accept the national team job if he had to leave the club.

Koloskov, who had previously said he would never again countenance the national team boss combining his duties with coaching a club side, made a U-turn, allowing Gazzayev to stay with CSKA until December 1.

Gazzayev, a prolific striker with Lokomotiv Moscow, Dinamo Moscow and Dinamo Tbilisi in the 1970s and 80s, and who scored four times in his eight appearances for the USSR, is the one coach who has managed to challenge Moscow Spartak in the League. His Alaniya Vladikavkaz side won the 1995 championship, the only time it has not gone to the red-and-whites since the days of the Soviet Union.

Doubling up...Valeri Gazzayev now leads Russia and CSKA Moscow

UKRAINE

Shakhtar scale the heights under Scala

SHAKHTAR DONETSK won their first League title, breaking the nine-year monopoly of Kyiv Dynamo.

The key game of the run-in came on June 3 when Shakhtar beat Dynamo 2-0 at home, putting them a point clear of their rivals, a position that remained unaltered as both won their remaining two matches.

The new champions were unbeaten during the League season, extending their undefeated run to 50 games, stretching back to September 2000.

Shakhtar also won the national Cup at the end of May – beating Dynamo 3-2 in the Final – to confirm there has been a shift in the balance of power in Ukrainian football.

Shakhtar president Rinat Akhmetov has made an impressive investment in the club, attracting players from as many as nine countries. Among those to play significant roles in the triumph were Nigerians Isaac Okoronkwo and Julius Aghahowa, and Romanians Daniel Florea and Marian Aliuta.

The main driving force behind the Double success has been Italian coach Nevio Scala. In only his first season in charge he convinced the players that they were capable of winning the championship. "It is the first League title in my coaching career," said Scala. "It's great that we've achieved such success in my first year with the club. I'm very proud of the players."

Kyiv Dynamo dropped off the top after the death of legendary coach Valerii Lobanovskyi in early May. Former assistant Olexiy Mikhailichenko has been appointed as the temporary replacement.

In other coaching changes, Yurii Kalitvinsev has quit relegated Prykarpattiya, who have installed assistant Victor Riyashko in his place. Arsenal Kyiv coach Oleg Kuznetsov has given way to former Moscow Spartak assistant Viacheslav Grozny.

Oleg Zadernovsky

Key role...Julius Aghahowa

POLAND

Boniek replaces Engel

JERZY ENGEL, a national hero only six months ago for steering Poland to the World Cup, was fired after the side were eliminated after just two group games. His replacement is former international Zbigniew Boniek, a member of the side that finished third at Spain 1982.

Engel, feted after leading the team to the World Cup for the first time since 1986, came in for strong criticism in the media after successive defeats in Korea – 2-0 to the co-hosts and 4-0 to Portugal. A 3-1 win against the USA in the final group game was little consolation, and Engel was summarily sacked.

Boniek's first goal is to guide Poland to the Euro 2004 finals. With this in mind, he said he will introduce fresh blood to the defence, an obvious necessity after captain Tomasz Waldoch announced his international retirement.

"I will be a very expensive coach," claimed 46-year-old Boniek. "My salary will not be as high as Engel's. But I would like to travel much more, to watch my players at their clubs."

Boniek was capped 80 times during the 1970s and 80s, scoring 24 times, and also proved his great ability at club level with Juventus and Roma. As a coach, he worked with a number of other Italian clubs – Lecce, Bari and Avellino – without great success. However, he flourished when managing his own advertising company before becoming an FA vice-chairman and marketing chief.

In the League, the top division is reverting to a single, 16-team programme after a year playing divided into two groups of eight. The bottom five clubs will be relegated automatically to make way for a smaller division in 2003-04.

Dariusz Kurowski

AUSTRIA

Champions Tirol demoted

THE shockwaves are still reverberating after FC Tirol, League champions for the past three years, were kicked out of the Bundesliga because of their financial plight. Some £15million in debt, Tirol's failure to provide the necessary guarantees left the League with little alternative but to expel them. The champions now must start from scratch in the Third Division after merging with the Wattens club.

It is hard to envisage the new entity of Wattens/Wacker Tirol returning rapidly to the elite. All their top players, including skipper and libero Michael Baur, have left the club, as has coach Joachim Low.

Tirol's demise meant reinstatement for relegated Admira, while runners-up Sturm Graz and third-placed Grazer AK will now take part in the Champions League.

Nick Bidwell

Saving grace...Petr Cech

SLOVAKIA

Kosice consign neighbours to drop

WITH Matador Puchov securing second spot behind champions MSK Zilina in the penultimate round of the championship, interest on the final day centered on a relegation derby. This involved eastern neighbours FC Kosice and Tatran Presov, former powers now fallen on lean times.

Kosice stayed up after running out 2-1 winners. The result meant they finished level on points with Tatran, who were relegated because of an inferior head-to-head record against their rivals.

Roy Kitson

Round-up

TORPEDO KUTAISI won the **GEORGIAN** title for the third successive year, finishing a point ahead of Lokomotiv Tbilisi. Lokomotiv gained some revenge by beating Torpedo 2-0 in the Cup Final. However, coach Revaz Dzodzuashvili stepped down before the game.

Argentinian defender Jose Andre Bilibio was included in **ARMENIA'S** national side for the 2-0 victory over Andorra in June. Bilibio, who joined champions Pyunik in January, is in his second spell in Armenia, having played for Ararat Yerevan in 1999-00.

Pyunik won the Cup, beating Zvartnots 2-0 in the Final.

Romanian Gabriel Stan has been appointed coach of former **MOLDOVAN** champions Zimbru Chisinau following the sacking of Nicolai Mandricenco. He was fired with Zimbru trailing behind eventual League winners Serif Tiraspol.

Former Internazionale boss Luigi Simoni was fired by **BULGARIA'S** CSKA Sofia after they lost the League title and the Cup Final to city rivals Levski. Simoni's replacement is Stoicho Mladenov, the former Bulgaria coach.

Vladimir Kalinkovich & Michael Bowesfield

CZECH REPUBLIC

Youngsters restore pride

THE national Under-21s provided some consolation for the seniors missing out on the World Cup by unexpectedly winning the European Championship in Switzerland.

Miroslav Beranek's charges held their nerve to beat France 3-1 on penalties at the end of the goalless Final. The hero of the night was keeper Petr Cech, who saved two spot-kicks in the shoot-out. France were previously unbeaten and had actually defeated the Czechs 2-0 in the first match of the competition

Former Sparta Prague assistant coach Vitezslav Lavicka has taken the reins at Viktoria Zizkov following the departure of Zdenek Scasny. Lavicka had temporarily been in charge of Sparta in the wake of Jaroslav Hrebik's dismissal two months before the end of last season.

Ceske Budejovice have won promotion to the top flight after one season away. They went up with Svit Zlin, who last played in the First Division in 1995-96.

Roy Kitson

Pro-file Dmitri Sychev

The one bright spark from Russia's dismal World Cup

OFFICIALS of Nantes and Metz will not have enjoyed watching Russian attacking starlet Dmitri Sychev turning it on at this summer's World Cup. Both French clubs had Sychev on trial last autumn, only to decide they would not take him on.

How they must regret their decision now. Sychev has become one of the hottest properties in Eastern Europe, and Nantes and Metz certainly could not afford him today.

In January this year, Russian champions Moscow Spartak stepped in to sign the forward from Second Division Spartak Tambov, and he was an instant hit in the capital, clinching a first-team place with a clutch of goals in the pre-season CIS Cup.

A regular for the Russian Under-18s, Sychev soon found himself thrust into the senior international side. He made his debut in March in the 2-1 defeat by Estonia, then sealed a spot in Russia's World Cup squad with a goal in a warm-up game against Yugoslavia.

Sychev became the youngest player to appear for the USSR or Russia at a World Cup when going on as a substitute in the game against Tunisia aged 18 years and 222 days.

In truth, he was the only good note of a decidedly off-key Russian tournament, having a hand in all four Russian goals, of which he scored the last, despite appearing only as a substitute.

With his pace, quick feet and exuberant play, it was obvious why the Russian media had likened him to Michael Owen. "The best compliment I can pay Sychev is that it seemed as if he had played for the national team for some time," said Russian skipper Victor Onopko. "He took the World Cup finals completely in his stride. He had no fear, no nervousness and showed how skilful he is."

Sychev, a Siberian, spent his formative footballing years at St Petersburg's famous Smena soccer academy. Now, just months into a five-year contract with Spartak, it is a given that he will not stay long in Moscow. Leading Western clubs are already on the case, and Spartak may find it difficult to resist their approaches.

"I'm not one to look too far ahead into the future," says Sychev. "I'm just enjoying my good fortune. Only a short time ago, I could not have imagined playing for Moscow Spartak and Russia at the World Cup. It was only yesterday I was sitting in front of a television watching these top players. Now I'm living with these same players, eating at the same table as them."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Moscow Spartak
Country Russia
Born October 26, 1983, in Omsk
Previous club Spartak Tambov
International debut March 2002, v Estonia
International caps 6 (2 goals)

On a roll...Sao Caetano celebrate a goal against America of Mexico on their way to the Libertadores Cup Final

Little guys making the big time

Previously unheralded Sao Caetano are now one of Brazil's most successful clubs. Tim Vickery reports

BRAZIL

THE Brazilian national championship kicks off on August 10, with the country's most extraordinary club aiming to make it third time lucky.

Sao Caetano have been in existence only since December 1989. But the tiny club from the outskirts of Sao Paulo have finished second in both the past two years and now want to go one better.

Their rise from Second Division anonymity came two years ago, when the bizarre format of the championship allowed the top teams from lower divisions to take part in the decisive knockout stages. Drawn against Rio side Fluminense in the last 16, an entertaining 3-3 draw at home seemed to have brought the story to an end. But in the second leg, with a packed Maracana seeming not to contain a single Sao Caetano supporter, they recorded a famous 1-0 win, and a legend was born.

Almost overnight a collection of unknown journeymen became everyone's second favourite team. They showed that in the current state of South American football – with the big clubs concerned mainly with selling stars to Europe – it is possible for a humble, well-coached side to compete with anyone.

Sao Caetano went all the way to the 2000 Final against Vasco da Gama and drew the first leg 1-1 at home. In the second leg a terrace fence collapse caused the game to be suspended at 0-0. Miraculously, there were no serious injuries. Had the regulations been followed, the game and the title would have been awarded to Sao Caetano. Instead, a replay was held, which Vasco won 3-1.

Sao Caetano's reward for co-operating was a place in the First Division, when, otherwise, they would have had to stay in the Second Division because that year there were no provisions for promotion or relegation.

Despite their exploits, most saw them as a mere flash in the pan. But last year they were back in the Final, losing this time to Atletico Paranaense. Not only that, they have taken their good form into this year's Libertadores Cup, reaching the Final after a 3-1 aggregate win over America of Mexico.

As impressive as their achievement is the way in which it has been accomplished. Coach Jair Picerni, who took Brazil to the 1984 Olympic silver medal, has made collective play their hallmark. Whoever wins the ball starts the counter-attack, and a quick exchange of passes is their favourite route to goal. The side's symbol is a small midfielder, Adaozinho. Now 34, he has played all over the country and even had a short spell in Switzerland. Until now he had never been in the limelight, but there are few better passers of the ball in the domestic game.

Other players have used Sao Caetano as a stepping stone to bigger things. Left-back Cesar, a former inmate of Sao Paulo's notorious Carandiru prison, went on to play for Brazil and moved to Lazio after a spell at the club.

However, the only departure that forced a change of style was that of striker Adhemar, who went to Stuttgart. Without his individual ability, Picerni has resorted to using a tall target man – first Magrao, then Brandao and now Somalia.

Sao Caetano president Nairo Ferriera de Souza sees no reason for the good times to stop rolling. "Our philosophy is home-made," he says. "If I receive 10, I spend eight, so there's no danger that we'll over-extend ourselves. Now is the time to build up our support base. Most Santos supporters come from the time when Pele was playing. We've had the Pele era; now it's the era of Sao Caetano."

Round-up

PERU: Universitario clinched the opening championship by beating Alianza Lima over two legs in a play-off. The extra ties were needed after the sides finished level on points at the top at the end of the regular season.

Universitario won the first leg of the play-off 1-0 at home, but the fan violence that followed the match and fears that it would be repeated at the return leg caused the police to suspend it. First it was suggested the game should be played behind closed doors, but it was finally decided to stage it in Trujillo, almost 500km from Lima. The attendance at the goalless second leg was only a third of that at the first match, and with 700 police present there was no repeat of the trouble.

It was a first League title for Argentinian coach Angel Cappa, who previously led Banfield, Huracan and Racing Club in his homeland, Las Palmas and Tenerife in Spain, and Mexico's Atlante. "I owe this to the players because the club officials never backed us," Cappa said, referring to the fact that some Universitario players were owed five months' pay as a result of the club's financial difficulties.

PARAGUAY: Uruguayan Anibal Ruiz has been appointed national coach in place of Cesare Maldini. Ruiz was formerly in charge of Paraguay's national youth side. Maldini stood down after the World Cup to return to Milan.

CHILE: Universidad Catolica won the opening championship with a 1-1 draw and 4-0 victory over Rangers, the revelation of the tournament, in the Final.

COLOMBIA: Jairo Castillo scored all three goals for defending champions America as they beat Atletico Nacional 2-1 and 1-0 in the two-leg opening championship Final.

Curiously, both finalists are changing coaches. Nacional's Luis Montoya was surprisingly dismissed and replaced by Alexis Garcia, who played in their 1989 Libertadores Cup-winning side. Jaime De la Pava, winning his third straight title with America, has left saying he wants to coach a foreign club.

BOLIVIA: Bolivar were runaway winners of the opening championship, thanks mainly to the goals of League top scorer Joaquin Botero. With one match still to play, Bolivar led The Strongest by 10 points.

VENEZUELA: Closing championship winners Nacional of Tachira beat opening champions Estudiantes of Merida to take the overall League title. The two-leg tie went to penalties, which Nacional won 5-3, following a 3-3 aggregate draw.

Eric Weil

On target...Castillo's goals fired America to the Colombian opening title

Pro-file Kleberson

Brazil's thoroughly modern midfield dynamo

IT WAS perhaps the most decisive moment of the World Cup. Brazil had identified the quarter-final against England as the gateway to glory, but found themselves a goal down and struggling to break down a deep defence.

New boy Kleberson was not having an easy time playing his way into the competition. A poor performance against Malaysia on the eve of the tournament had cost him a first-team place. Now he was back after coming off the bench against Belgium to set up a goal. But a bad backpass had nearly given a goal away. He needed to prove to himself that he was a World Cup midfielder.

Kleberson's hour of affirmation coincided with the moment Brazil began to be sure the trophy would be theirs. He snapped into a tackle, Paul Scholes was beaten and the ball ran away to Ronaldinho to draw the defence and set up Rivaldo's equaliser. From then on there was no looking back for Brazil – or Kleberson.

The midfielder had been an international for less than five months. "The first time I met up with the group I was very nervous," he said. "Then I calmed myself down, kept thinking positive and trusted that everything would turn out OK."

So it proved. Kleberson gave one of the most assured Brazil debuts in years in the January friendly against Bolivia, and during the finals his dynamism plugged the defensive gaps that had been so evident earlier in the competition. What's more, his hard running and crisp passing also provided attacking options.

The Final against Germany was Ronaldo's night. But aside from 'The Phenomenon' there was no better player than Kleberson. Midfielders in Brazil are expected to specialise either in defence or attack, to be either Mauro Silva or Gerson. But Kleberson's versatility makes him hard to categorise. He is also one of the few genuinely two-footed players the country has produced.

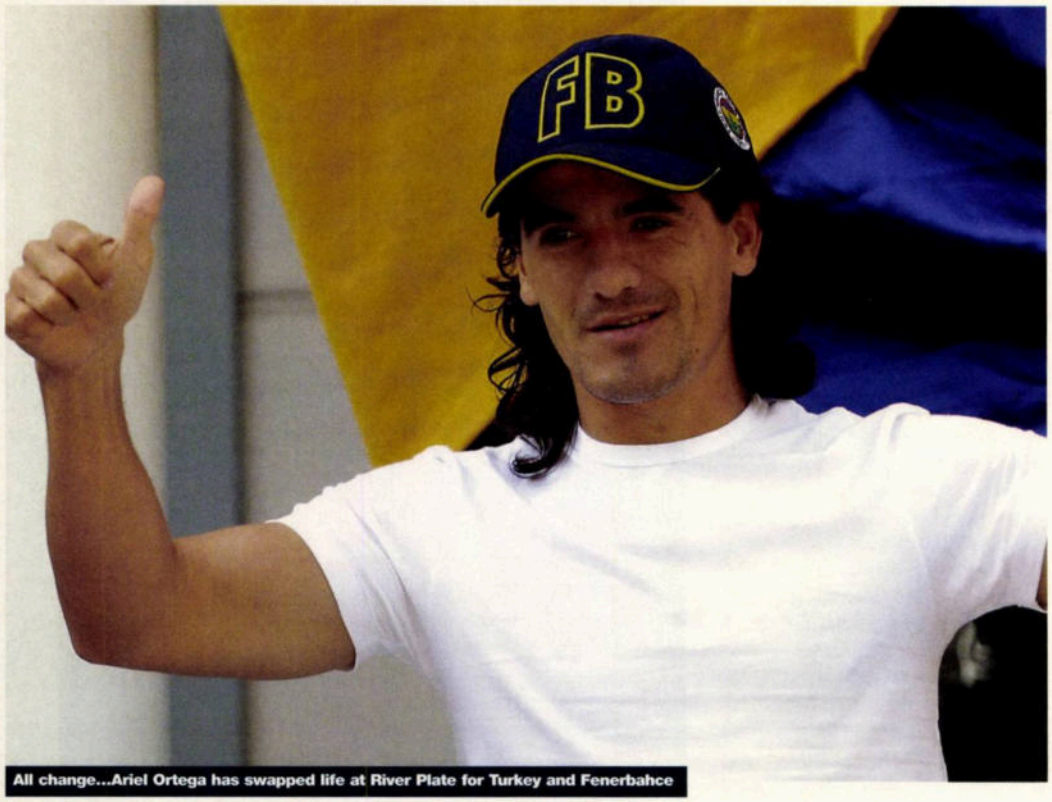
The adjective usually used to describe him is 'modern' – and he has made it very clear that his time has come. As a child in the Parana countryside he preferred picking cotton with his mother to learning how to make shoes with his father. Now he has picked up some serious silverware – first the Brazilian championship, with Atletico Paranaense, and now the World Cup. "It's been a spectacular few months," he says. "Now I have to keep the good times coming, keep maturing and work on my finishing."

In the World Cup Final he rattled the German bar. In four years' time the high-achieving, high-energy midfielder will be aiming a fraction lower.

Tim Vickery

Fact file

Club Atletico Paranaense
Country Brazil
Born June 19, 1979, in Urai, Parana
International debut January 2002, v Bolivia
International caps 11 (2 goals)
Honours World Cup 2002; Brazilian championship 2001; Parana championship 2000, 2001



All change...Ariel Ortega has swapped life at River Plate for Turkey and Fenerbahce

Big Two depleted by exodus

Eric Weil reports on preparations for the new season

ARGENTINA

AS THE start of the season approached, the focus of attention was again on the Big Two, River Plate and Boca Juniors, who have won nine of the last 12 championships.

Chilean coach Manuel Pellegrini, formerly with San Lorenzo, has taken the reins at River in succession to Ramon Diaz. However, although Pellegrini has already won praise from his players, he will have to cope without three of the club's key men. Ariel Ortega and Cristian Ledesma have both been sold – to Fenerbahce and Hamburg respectively – while Esteban Cambiasso has been recalled by Real Madrid after his loan period in Buenos Aires.

A lot is now expected of River's young stars – midfielder Andres D'Alessandro (20), and strike duo Fernando Cavenaghi (18) and Alejandro Dominguez (20).

At Boca Juniors, only two players – strikers Guillermo Barros Schelotto and Marcelo Delgado – remain of the side that won the 2000 Libertadores Cup following Juan Roman Riquelme's departure for Barcelona. Riquelme, the outstanding performer of recent domestic championships, never got on well with Boca's officials, though his decision to finally leave after protracted negotiations is at least partly due to Argentina's economic woes. Another reason was the recent kidnapping of one of Riquelme's brothers.

Boca coach Oscar Tabarez recently spoke out about the effects of Argentina's financial crisis on the country's football. "The economic crisis is resulting in a general lowering of standards in the domestic championship," said the Uruguayan. "Financial interests are winning the battle over the sporting part, with players continually leaving to go elsewhere. It's so strange that when you try to build a team, you are really working to disband it, because you know as soon as it is successful the transfers will start. It's impossible to keep the same team from one season to the next. The clubs are not even owners of their players, and the agents and businessmen who hold their contracts move them from one club to another."

On the field, first blood went to River, who beat Boca 2-1 in a friendly in Los Angeles during the clubs' separate tours in the United States.

The financial problems in Argentinian football have been eased by the legal ruling that all local debts formerly valued in US dollars should now be valued in pesos at a rate of one to one. Since the peso has lost 75 per cent of its value since devaluation at the beginning of the year, the ruling means that when Argentinian clubs sell players abroad in dollars, they bring in virtually four times as many pesos, thus giving them a much better chance of paying off their peso debts.

However, the situation remains grim for many clubs. Huracan players, owed five months' salary, refused to start pre-season training until they were paid, while Estudiantes de La Plata were unable to train because their water and electricity supplies had been cut off due to non-payment.

Three other top-flight clubs have suffered because of the growing trend to take players on loan instead of buying them. Racing Club, Huracan and Nueva Chicago all postponed pre-season warm-up games because, with players moving elsewhere as free agents and negotiations for new loans not finalised, there were not enough professionals to form a team.

MEXICO

Nomad clubs play name game

THE new League season will begin on August 3 under the name 'Campeonato de Apertura' – or opening championship – after it was decided to do away with the old Summer and Winter monikers.

Unfortunately, the change in name has not affected the chaotic way in which federation officials manage the domestic game. The statutes and regulations are constantly being stretched for economic reasons without any long-range planning. The latest developments mean that the League will kick-off with four new teams and, by January, have five new cities as club bases.

The owners of 2002 Summer League quarter-finalists La Piedad, based in the city of the same name north-west of Mexico City, were unable to finance a new stadium. So they sold the franchise to a private consortium from the booming industrial city of Queretaro, 120 miles north of the capital. The team will now play in the Corregidora stadium under the name of Gallos (Roosters).

Mexico City side Atlante, who have been sharing Cruz Azul's stadium, have moved on to Neza, a city on the outskirts of the capital.

San Luis 'Angeles', from San Luis Potosi, 300 miles north of Mexico City, returned to the First Division

Monterrey move...Daniel Passarella

after 12 years when they won the promotion play-offs.

Deportivo Veracruz, runners-up in the Second Division, beat Leon in a promotion/relegation play-off to take the 20th and final berth in the newly expanded top flight. But this meant Veracruz, who in turn used to be Irapuato and had moved to Veracruz only six months ago, had to make room for the rightful owners of the name and the stadium!

Irapuato/Veracruz have now moved to Tuxtla Gutierrez, capital of the southernmost state of Chiapas, where a private consortium paid £3.5million for the franchise. The team will compete under the name Jaguares de Chiapas.

Finally, another Mexico City side, Necaxa, will be moving in January to a new stadium at Aguascalientes after suffering decades of poor attendances at the Azteca stadium.

The only positive side of all this manoeuvring is that the Premier League, albeit unplanned, has now become a truly national competition. The regional breakdown is:

NORTHERN MEXICO
Monterrey (2 stadia, 2 teams), Torreon (1, 1), Pachuca (1, 1) and San Luis (1, 1).

CENTRAL MEXICO
Mexico City (3 stadia, 4 teams), Ciudad Neza (1, 1), Queretaro (1, 1), Toluca (1, 1).

WESTERN MEXICO
Guadalajara (2 stadia, 3 teams), Celaya (1, 1), Morelia (1, 1).

SOUTHERN MEXICO
Puebla (1 stadium, 1 team), Tuxtla Gutierrez (1, 1), Veracruz (1, 1).

This totals 14 cities and 18 stadia in the top division. The longest travelling distance is 1,500km between Monterrey and Tuxtla Gutierrez.

On the coaching front, Argentinian Daniel Passarella has taken charge of Monterrey, while Manuel Lapuente is relinquishing many of his duties at America. The former national coach, who led the Mexico City side to their first League title for 13 years this summer, will now take charge only for games in the Libertadores Cup. Lapuente's assistants will oversee the domestic League campaign.

Carlos Ramirez

National stars stay home

The predicted moves to Europe have not happened, writes Paul Gardner

WILL it make any difference, this improbably strong performance by the USA in Korea? Will unexpected World Cup success translate into long-awaited recognition for the pro sport back home?

It will help, assuredly, but don't bet on any immediately dramatic benefits. Of course there have been the usual publicity and PR triumphs, with players appearing on television talk shows.

Not that soccer ever gets treated as a regular sport or a normal activity on these shows. It is still regarded as a kind of circus act – the obligatory performance is for the players to bounce the ball off their heads repeatedly while the host expresses wonderment and makes hilarious comments on what this must be doing to their brains.

On one New York show a group of players was taken on to the roof of the studio and spent some time trying to kick a ball accurately between two water towers. Forward Clint Mathis tried to whack the ball from one roof to another across the width of Broadway. He failed, landing the ball on a lower ledge.

David Letterman, the dean of late-night TV, remarked: "Until a month ago nobody played soccer here – then this guy Landon Donovan and some others teach themselves to play, and they reach the quarter-finals."

It was presumed he was joking with the "nobody played" remark, but you never know.

Don Garber, the commissioner of Major League Soccer, was in no doubt about the effects of the USA's victories, saying: "The success of America's team has led to increased visibility and credibility for our sport, our leagues and our players. Yes, the American sports landscape is crowded. Yes, the sport has a long way to go to achieve the greatness of other major leagues. But by any measure soccer has arrived. It has established its rightful place in the new America and will continue to spread its influence in the years to come."

There had been talk before the World Cup that a successful run for the US would result in a flurry of interest in their players from European clubs. Mathis, in particular, seemed a likely target. But the forward didn't endear himself to coach Bruce Arena, who found his training habits something less than exemplary. Although Mathis scored a splendid goal against South Korea, he sat on the bench for three of the USA's five games.

Further disillusionment, of a rather strange sort, greeted Mathis on his return to the USA and his club, MetroStars. Warming up to enter his first game back, against Columbus Crew, he found that his services could not be used – someone on the MetroStars staff had forgotten to add his name to the playing roster.

When Mathis did eventually get on, more woes followed. He was forced to leave the field after 32 minutes, and was told he needed arthroscopic surgery on his right knee that would sideline him for up to five weeks.

Shaking down at Earthquakes...Landon Donovan

For Donovan, who started every game for the USA, the situation was complicated. His contract is owned by Germany's Bayer Leverkusen, but he has been playing, on loan, with San Jose Earthquakes since last year. He spent two years in Germany, mostly on the bench, and is not anxious to return.

He said: "I have made it very clear [to Leverkusen] that I would like to stay with the Earthquakes, not just from a soccer standpoint, but there are a lot of reasons. I love the coaches here and the organisation; it has become a second home to me.

"Bayer took a chance on me and gave me an opportunity, and I appreciate that, but I feel loyal to San Jose. Right now I don't want to be in Europe...I would rather play here, maybe not make as much money but be closer to my family and friends."

Arena was also the subject of speculation that his success would result in offers from Europe. The chances are high, though, that he will be offered a renewal of his contract with the US federation. His current deal runs out at the end of this year and it is expected he will be offered a salary approaching £700,000 a year.

Arrested development

Senegal apart, the continent's World Cup hopefuls again failed to deliver. Mark Gleeson reports

SENEGAL'S unlikely progress to the quarter-finals might have been one of the fairytale stories of the 2002 World Cup but it does not hide the fact that Africa, again, had an awful return from the finals tournament.

Never before had the continent expected so much from its representatives, with the likes of Cameroon and Nigeria expected to break new ground for African football. But, as in the previous finals in the USA and France, the upbeat forecasts proved too optimistic, leaving Africa entrenched in its role as the poor cousin to the superpowers of Europe and Latin America.

Senegal were the only African country to progress past the first round, meaning the continent has still to provide more than a single representative in the knockout phase of any one finals tournament.

Cameroon's failure was particularly disappointing, despite the side's improvement on their unlucky France 98 campaign. Two successive African Nations Cup titles, impressive performances in World Cup warm-ups against top-class opposition and a strong team spirit engendered high hopes. Yet, it all came to naught. The Indomitable Lions allowed Ireland back into a game they looked to have in control, scored a single goal against Saudi Arabia, and never really threatened Germany in their final group match, which they needed to win.

Nigeria never even got out of the blocks. Admittedly, they were drawn in the toughest group, but were again let down by shoddy preparation and some strange selection decisions. The exciting generation of Austin Okocha, Sunday Oliseh and Nwankwo Kanu is still young enough to provide future chances for success, but none of the players look to have too much enthusiasm for the task.

Nigeria and Cameroon won the two most recent Olympic tournaments but that success at Under-23 level has not been translated to the senior ranks. It begs more questions about the validity of the ages of some of those players said to be under 23 at the time they won gold.

South Africa and Tunisia were always expected to be also-rans and proved so, although Bafana Bafana might have made the second round with a little better coaching, organisation and ambition. But the South African public were thrilled with a first World Cup win (over Slovenia) and feted the team on their return home, all the same.

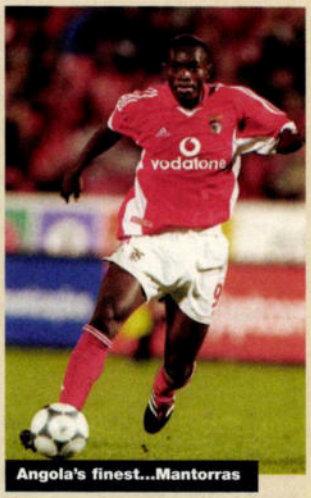
Now Africa looks ahead to the 2006 qualifiers and a new format, whereby the Nations Cup finals will be used to determine the five World Cup places. Four will be the semi-finalists, but the Confederation of African Football is still trying to work out how the fifth will be decided.

Over and out...Taribo West and Joseph Yobo reflect on Nigeria's World Cup exit

Round-up

Agadir take first title

Hassan Agadir have won their first **MOROCCAN** League title, 56 years after their formation. They clinched the championship in a dramatic last round by drawing at CODM Meknes, while second-placed Wydad Casablanca – two points behind at the start of the day – lost 1-0 at home to Olympique Khourbiga.



Angola's finest...Mantorras

Wydad have since named Rachid Taoussi as their coach in place of caretaker Fakhreddine Rajhi, in charge since the start of the year.

Elsewhere in **NORTH AFRICA,** USM Alger were crowned **ALGERIAN** champions after second-placed JS Kabylie were beaten on the last day of the season. It is a third title for the capital city club.

Portuguese coach Manuel Jose has parted company with **EGYPT'S** Al Ahly after the Cairo club could finish only second to Ismailia in the League. Jose, formerly with Benfica, won the African Champions League and the African Super Cup during his year at Al Ahly. His replacement is Dutchman Jo Bonfrere, previously in charge of Nigeria.

Substitute Abdelhalim Ali's second-half goal was enough to bring Zamalek victory over Baladeya in the Egyptian Cup Final.

Former **TUNISIAN** national team coach Lofti Benzarti will take charge of US Monastir this season; Brazilian Pablo Ruhim takes over at Etoile Sahel; and Swiss Charles Roessli is the new man at Club Africain.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ZAMBIAN coach Ronald Mkhandawire, who took South Africa's Orlando Pirates to the African Champions Cup title in 1995, has died at 42. International midfielder Maybin Chisanga, who played for Zambia at the 1998 African Nations Cup finals, has also passed away, aged 31, as has former national coach Obby Kapita.

In the country's Top Eight Cup Final, Kabwe Warriors beat Power Dynamos 1-0 in extra time.

Benfica striker Mantorras has been named as **ANGOLA'S** sportsman of the year, shortly after winning CAF's Young Player of the Year award.

CENTRAL AFRICA

Vita Club beat arch-rivals Daring Club Motema Pembe 2-0 in Kinshasa to win the Liberation Cup in **DR CONGO.** Vita have also qualified for the eight-team national championship from the regional league stage. They will be joined by defending champions TP Mazembe, FC St Eloi-Lupopo, SM Sanga Balende, FC St Luc, CS Cilu, FC Lumiere and AS Les Anges Noirs.

EAST AFRICA

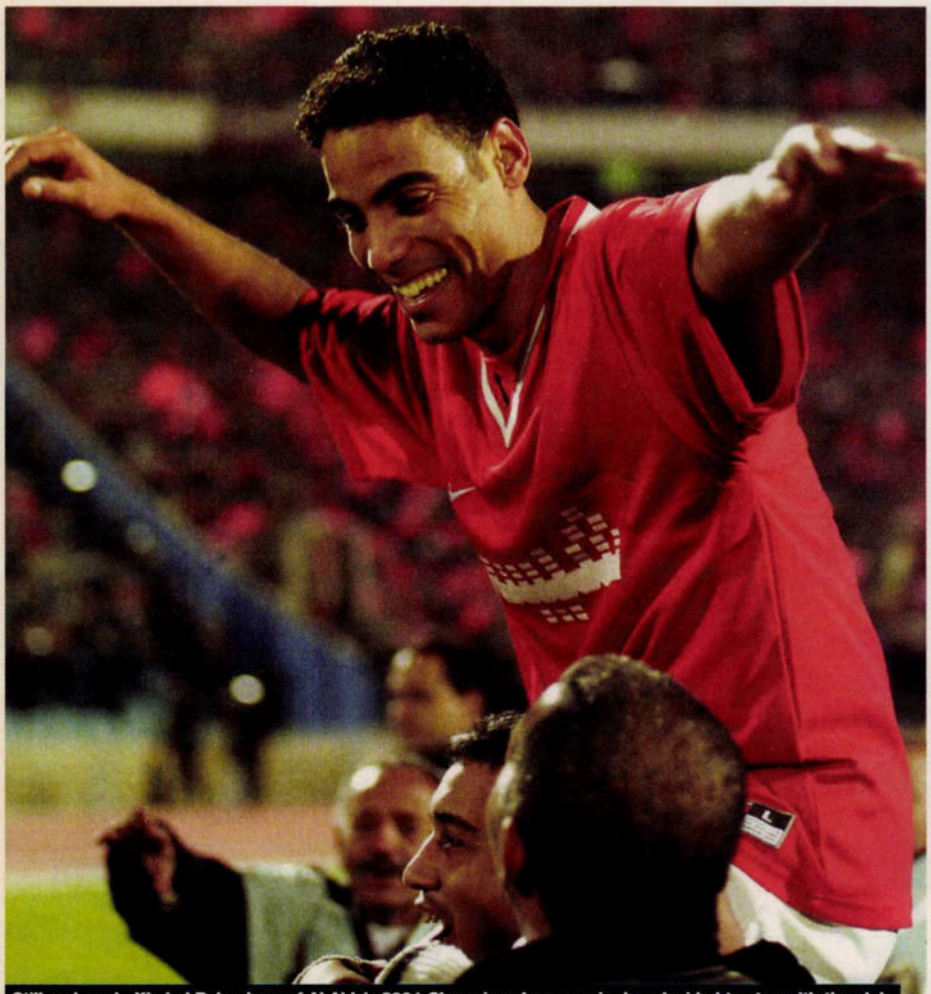
Former **ETHIOPIAN** national coach Kassahun Teka has returned to his original club, taking over for the third time at Medin.

St Louisienne of **REUNION** have signed Jean-Philippe Caumartin from Racing Club of Paris for his second spell on the island.

WEST AFRICA

FC Mavegro won the national Cup in **GUINEA-BISSAU** beating SC Bafata 3-1 in the Final, with goals from Miro and Pedro (2). The League title is in dispute, with both Sporting Bissau and Portos claiming it. Portos want points awarded to them after alleging that another side, Balantas, fielded an unregistered player during their League clash.

Mark Gleeson



Still on board...Khaled Bebo, hero of Al Ahly's 2001 Champions League win, has decided to stay with the club

All points North

PREVIEW: AFRICAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

NORTH AFRICAN teams are strongly fancied to maintain their traditional dominance, with four representatives in the last eight of the continent's top club competition.

Holders Al Ahly and Egyptian champions Zamalek are the first compatriots to enter the tournament's league stage, which was introduced in 1997.

But while their rivalry is among the fiercest in world football, Esperance of Tunisia start as favourites. The 1994 winners have played in two of the last three Finals, have failed to reach the last eight of the Champions League only once in the past six years, and have the biggest budget and best organisation of all the remaining sides.

Senegalese soccer, on the up since the World Cup exploits of their national team, is represented by Jeanne d'Arc, although only one of their players went to the finals in Asia in June, and third-choice goalkeeper Kalidou Cissokho did not play.

The top two finishers in the two groups, which kick-off in early August, go forward to the semi-finals in November, played over two legs. The Final, too, is decided over two legs, with the winners set to earn £715,000.

Mark Gleeson

TEAM BY TEAM

Group A

Al Ahly: The holders have added Angolan strikers Avelino Lopes and Gilberto this year, but coach Manuel Jose left in June after they failed to win the Egyptian League title. Replacing him is Jo Bonfrere, the Dutchman who took Nigeria to Olympic gold in 1996. Ahly are a youthful team but still have a lot of experience and should easily make the last four. Last year's Final hero, Khaled Bebo, is staying, despite offers from Europe.

Jeanne d'Arc: A second Champions League appearance for the Dakar club, who are led by Amsata Fall, a former Senegal national coach. Two years ago, they failed to win a game in their group and it is hard to see them improving on that. Key players Ousmane Ndoye and Abdoulaye Diagne Faye have been on trial at European clubs in recent weeks, seeking to take advantage of the reputation created by their compatriots at the World Cup.

Raja Casablanca: The Moroccans lost their stranglehold on the domestic championship in May, finishing only third, having won it for the six previous years. However, Belgian coach Walter Meeuws has kept his job. Imported strikers Francois Endene Elokan (Cameroon) and Mohamed Ali Diallo (Senegal) shone in the earlier rounds of the Champions League, helping Raja end two successive years of shock defeats in the preliminary stages.

TP Mazembe: Surprise winners over Orlando Pirates of South Africa in the second round in April, it is the second successive appearance in the group phase for the DR Congo club. Veteran coach Mukeba Mutamba has a workmanlike team, albeit a little temperamental at times. Recently the club has suffered because of tensions between the directors; whether it affects the playing performance remains to be seen.

Group B

ASEC Abidjan: Many of the talented products from the Ivorians' much-vaunted youth academy have left, almost exclusively for Belgium. Coach Idrissa 'Saboteur' Traore, originally from Burkina Faso, has been forced to rebuild his side with more youth. Abdoulaye Djire and Seydou Kante are two who have come through to win caps for their country; Losseni Konate remains the pillar in goal.

Costa do Sol: The Mozambicans will be rank outsiders but could cause a few problems for the big guns at home. Former national team goalkeeper Rui Evora has been coach for just six months. Key players include internationals Caito, Nelinho and 19-year-old defender Nando. The side lacks an established striker.

Esperance: Swiss coach Michel Decastel has added four new players, including a replacement – Jean-Jacques Tizie from Ivory Coast – for veteran keeper Chokri El Ouaer, who surprisingly retired on the eve of the World Cup. The other newcomers are Riadh Jelassi, Bechir Mogaadi and Sirajeddine Chihi.

Zamalek: Carlos Alberto Torres, Brazil's World Cup-winning captain in 1970, replaced Otto Pfister as coach after the club lost their League title in June. Veteran striker Hossam Hassan, once the world's most capped international, is not getting younger but still scoring. Alongside him, Felix Aboagye, the former Ghana forward, is back in Egyptian football. Zamalek also have Hazem Imam back from Udinese, but he could be on his way to the Gulf before the Champions League kicks off.

● *See World Service for full match schedule.*

Kiwis cash in after keeper crisis

Paul Moon on New Zealand's lucrative Final victory over Australia

Lucky strike...Ryan Nelsen (14) takes the plaudits after his winner

OCEANIA NATIONS CUP

HOSTS and favourites New Zealand overcame the blow of losing their two leading goalkeepers along the way to win the Oceania Nations Cup for a record third time. The All Whites beat Australia 1-0 in the Final, their first victory over the Socceroos on home soil for 13 years. But, much more significant to an association forever living on a shoestring, the victory means a £650,000 windfall for participating at next year's Confederations Cup.

New Zealand's preparations for the finals were hit when first-choice keeper Michael Utting was kicked out of the squad for disciplinary reasons four days before the opening game. A remorseful Utting later confessed to a serious alcohol problem and has been undergoing treatment. His understudy, Jason Batty, was then forced off the field during the Final after injuring his groin.

Batty had played little since leaving English semi-professional Stalybridge Celtic late last year. Yet he enjoyed an outstanding tournament and provided one of the Final's pivotal moments before his premature departure when blocking Joel Porter's powerful close-range shot after nine minutes.

Porter's effort was one of a number on the Kiwis' goal during the first half. The Socceroos had required an 88th-minute equaliser and golden goal to prevail over Tahiti in the semi-final, but now looked a totally different unit.

Due to financial constraints, Australia could field just one overseas-based player, Basle midfielder Scott Chipperfield, and he stood out as they gained the upper hand, only for veteran striker Damian Mori to waste two good chances.

New Zealand started the second period with far greater purpose, only to lose Batty in the 57th minute. However, replacement James Bannatyne proved his mettle with a brilliant reflex save to again thwart Mori. The Kiwis struck in the 78th minute with their one real opportunity. Ryan Nelsen ghosted in behind the defence to reach a Simon Elliott free-kick and connected with his shin, totally wrong-footing Aussie goalkeeper Jason Petkovic.

JAPAN

Zico at the helm

ZICO has agreed to take over as national team coach in the wake of Philippe Troussier's departure. The legendary Brazilian has been involved with Japanese football at Sumitomo Metals and then Kashima Antlers since 1991, first as a player and in recent years as Antlers' technical advisor. He was also technical director of Brazil at France 98.

Few, if any, foreigners can claim to know the Japanese game and football culture as well as Zico. "I'm honoured," he said. "It shows what I have achieved here is recognised."

The Brazilian influence has increased with the return of striker Euller from Vasco da Gama. He replaces Genk-bound Takayuki Suzuki at Kashima Antlers, having played for Verdy Kawasaki during his earlier stay. World Cup forward Edilson is also back with Kashiwa Reysol, where he played in 1996-97, from Cruzeiro.

Consadole Sapporo have appointed Yugoslav Radmilo Ivancevic from Oviedo, to replace outgoing coach Tetsuji Hashiratani.

Mike Plastow

Man at the top...Zico

Round-up

Al-Johar packs his bags

IT WAS no surprise when the **SAUDI ARABIAN** federation axed national coach Nasser Al-Johar on the team's return to Riyadh following their disastrous World Cup campaign. Al-Johar was informed immediately after the 8-0 thrashing by Germany that his services would no longer be required after the Finals, making the team's minor improvements against Cameroon and the Republic of Ireland academic.

Al-Johar was the nation's ninth different coach in six years.

Former United Arab Emirates and Iran coach Tomislav Ivic, previously with Marseille, has taken over at Al Ittihad.

Bruno Metsu, who led Senegal to the World Cup quarter-finals, has signed a £380,000, 10-month contract with **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** side Al Ain. "I dream of achieving new things at Asian level," he said.

Several other big names are moving to the UAE. Former Asian Player of the Year Ali Daei has signed for Al Shabab from Hertha Berlin, while Brazilian forward Paulo Sergio has joined Al Wahda from Bayern Munich. Newly-promoted Al Emirates have signed ex-Everton striker Daniel Amokachi.

Mohammedan SC are the new champions of **BANGLADESH** after beating arch-rivals and holders Abahani KC on penalties.

Perak bagged their first **MALAYSIAN** League title with a 2-0 win over NS Chempaka.

Pirouzi won the **IRANIAN** League, pipping rivals Esteghlal by one point; Al Ittihad completed the **QATARI** League and Cup double; and Al-Talaba won both major prizes in **IRAQ**. Al Jaish lifted the **SYRIAN** title for the ninth time.

In **VIETNAM**, Saigon Port won the League and Song Lam Nghe An took the Cup.

Miramar, four times runners-up in the **NEW ZEALAND** championship, claimed their first title by beating Napier City Rovers 3-1 in the Grand Final.

In **FIJI**, Lautoka beat Nasinu on penalties in the Cup Final after a 1-1 draw, while a golden goal by Ludwig Tienmua brought holders Sobou a 1-0 victory over PS United in **PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S** National Club Championship Final.

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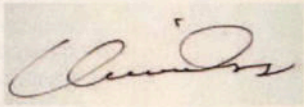


Brian Glanville's LAST WORD

'The blessed revival of Ronaldo meant that Scolari was swept on, despite himself, by the tide of virtuosity'

Desperate measure...Scolari was a crisis appointment

Right result but Brazil weren't brilliant

FACTS must be faced. This was by and large a World Cup of depressing mediocrity, saved at the last by the Brazilian victory over the Germans. Had the result gone the other way, there could well have been a bout of collective depression across the world of football at large, already obliged to cope with the triumphant re-election of the egregious Sepp Blatter.

Not that Brazil were in any way an exceptional team, nor Big Phil Scolari a deserving manager. His appointment by another deeply suspect administrator, Ricardo Teixeira, and co was one of sheer desperation. Vanderlei Luxemburgo had failed, Emerson Leao had failed, the team had even lost to little Ecuador and were in real danger of missing out on an automatic qualifying berth.

Big Phil, as readers of this magazine well know, is no purist. As manager of Gremio, his policy was one of blood and iron. Petty fouls were deemed fine as long as they took place outside the penalty box. The Beautiful Game was, if not anathema to him, at least an irrelevance. But the blessed revival of Ronaldo meant that he was swept on, despite himself, by the tide of virtuosity.

Rivaldo and Ronaldinho, however gifted, could not have done it alone, nor, at the start of the tournament, was there any reason to suppose that Ronaldo would prove himself capable of lasting a whole game let alone, in the Italian expression, of 'inventing' it.

When I watched Brazil's seesaw 5-2 victory over Costa Rica, my admiration for their attack was matched only by my astonishment at their defence. The fact that England so ineptly failed to penetrate it, even when the Brazilians were down to 10 men and that the Germans failed to breach it, too, doesn't alter my belief that this Brazil was a curiously schizoid affair. They did not even have any of the midfield powers and personality guaranteed by the likes of Gerson, Rivelino or Socrates.

Yet had the dull, pedestrian German team won the Cup, what would it have done to football?

Commentary not colour

A BIG black mark, if not a red card, to those likeable fellows Barry Davies of the BBC and Peter Drury of ITV for ineptly failing to realise that Spain, in the whole half-hour of extra-time against Ireland, had only 10 men. A nitwit BBC apparatchik has blustered that the commentators were dependent on information officially fed to them, but surely commentators, whatever the evidence to the contrary, have eyes to see for themselves.

Somewhat unkindly, but amusingly, *The Times* enlisted its readers in a campaign to 'out' commentators who displeased them. Gazza, of course, went quickly, but why was the poor fellow appointed in the first place? Ron Atkinson, Trevor Brooking, David O'Leary and Mark Lawrenson went, too, though I feel that Trevor, by and large, has been unjustly maligned.

Alyson Rudd, in the same paper, stressed the failings of Drury and Davies, and arguably had a point when she said that Davies seemed uneasy with his co-commentator, or colour man, as the Americans call it, Trevor Steven.

The whole practice seems to me a doubtful one, holding up the flow of commentary and running the fatal risk of missing important developments while the words flow irrelevantly on. Commentators should surely eschew what the writer Edmund Crispin called "the unnecessary cross reference" – words that get maddeningly in the way when something significant is happening.

Football is too fast a game for such marginalia, and perhaps TV should dispense with the colour commentators entirely. It didn't, after all, seem they could count to 11, either.

Wrong number...commentators failed to spot Spain were depleted

Winner...Ahn Jung-hwan's header puts Italy out of the World Cup

Ahn grabs the limelight

WHEN the cat's away, the mice do play. And there were no big cats in this tournament. France, Argentina and Italy all failed. England did somewhat better than expected and doubtless would have done better still had Steven Gerrard been there and Beckham not been crippled by that Argentinian thug Aldo Duscher in the Champions League.

Whether or not South Korea were favoured by referees and linesmen, they at least brought brio to the tournament, and I was especially pleased for Ahn Jung-hwan, who eventually obliged that ineffable blowhard Luciano Gaucci, the Perugia president, to eat humble pie.

Ahn took his chance well against Italy, was highly penetrative when I saw him against Poland, and had a dynamic moment later on against Germany, when he whipped first left then right past his marker to fire a shot that so nearly went in.

Italy and Spain should have beaten the Koreans in their sleep, and I have scant sympathy with their complaints, even though I still think the failure to have Joaquin's penalty retaken was outrageous.

As one who spent so long investigating the corruption of European referees, I have to say that we do need proof before such accusations are made. And I would add that when England were so scandalously cheated by Diego Maradona's Hand of God goal, there wasn't a whisper about corruption; merely accusations of ineptitude by Third World officials, who should never have been appointed.

It's a bit late for Sepp Blatter to declare that, in the future, more care should be taken in choosing referees and linesmen.

Eriksson's ads are a minus

THERE is, I understand, no truth in the rumours that the Football Association has lined up Gordon (Greed Is Good) Gecko in case Sven Goran Eriksson takes off for distant shores.

Are you as weary as I am of reading about Eriksson's deeply uninteresting romantic life, if you can call it that? And are you as surprised as I am that an England manager paid £2million a year should be putting himself about in commercials for the likes of Playstation and pasta sauce?

The word originally was that when allocating him this gigantic salary, the FA had stipulated that he should not engage in extra-curricular activities (not, of course, of the 'romantic' kind). This seems, if it ever was existent, to have gone by the board.

But, in the last analysis, all that really matters is what Eriksson achieves or doesn't achieve with the England team, and I continue to submit that, in this World Cup, it wasn't much.

Turks on the rise

ENGLAND must be seriously preoccupied by the fact that they have Turkey in their European Championship qualifying group. As the World Cup went on, the Turks got better and better, even if it took so long for a plainly demoralised Hakan Sukur to find his form. (I submit that the watershed came when his fine right-footed hook shot was saved by Marcos of Brazil).

Defiant...Rustu Recber

As one might have anticipated, Bayer Leverkusen's Yildiray Basturk had a notable tournament as a playmaker, but perhaps the true revelation was Ilhan Mansiz of Besiktas, top scorer in last season's Turkish League. How right he was to insist that he should have been a starter all along rather than a mere substitute until the third-place game. He excelled in that match, and Hakan obviously enjoyed playing alongside him; between the two of them they devastated the South Korean defence, in which poor Hong Myung-bo, playing the last of his 130-odd games for his country, blundered miserably and fatally in the first 11 seconds. It is scant consolation that he should figure in the supposed best 11 of the tournament.

By the same token, how in the name of logic did my fellow scribblers choose Oliver Kahn as their keeper, when his Seamanesque blunder in the Final made Brazil a present of the vital opening goal?

I saw Miroslav Klose get his easy hat-trick against Saudi Arabia in Sapporo, but felt that, after this, all was anti-climax. Surely little Oliver Neuville was the pick of the German attackers, and that ferocious free-kick, which rebounded from a post early in the second half of the Final, was well worth a goal.

A propos of goalkeepers, surely three of them had better claims than Kahn? Brad Friedel, who saved two penalties and many other attempts for the USA; Marcos, who may be said to have finally laid the 1970 goalkeeping ghost of Felix for Brazil; and Turkey's Rustu Recber, defiant in the third-place game, even though he was carrying an injury.

Arsene Wenger is surely right, however, to extend Seaman's contract at Arsenal; one slip doesn't make him anything but a good goalkeeper. It did surprise me, though, to see that Wenger was pursuing the USA's veteran right-back, Tony Sanneh. A doughty competitor certainly, but it's hard to forget that awful moment when one South Korean skinned him only for another to bang a simple chance over Friedel's bar.

August 1978

IT WAS Argentina lifting the World Cup 24 years ago, with an emotional captain, Daniel Passarella, clutching the trophy pictured on the cover.

The hosts' path to triumph in the Final received decidedly mixed reviews inside the issue, but there was at least consensus on the achievement of coach Cesar Luis Menotti. Eric Weil noted that this "was the first time in the history of Argentine soccer that a coach was put in charge of preparations shortly after the previous [World Cup] tournament was over and completed his contract and his job. That man was Cesar Luis Menotti, and whether the team he built had won the Cup or not, to him must go the credit of giving Argentina a new image of clean play and attacking soccer, which, for me, was the main reason for their success."

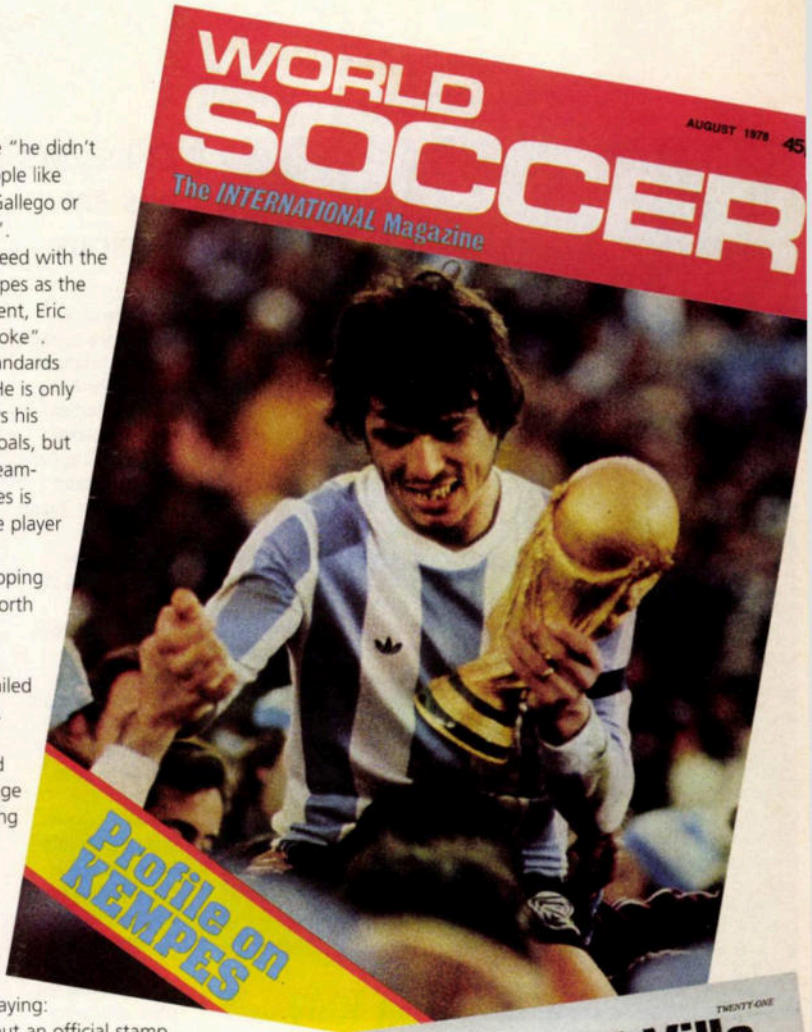
The issue opened with Keir Radnedge discussing speculation that Menotti would take the reins of the Spanish national team ahead of their hosted finals in 1982. He wrote: "It was his meticulous approach and cool work under pressure which impressed Spanish officials, who realised from Argentina's success how desperately important to the success of the finals is the performance of the host nation."

Menotti's team came in for less fulsome praise. Brian Glanville said it had been the worst of the six World Cups he had covered and Argentina were the worst side to have won. Not only that but he suggested top scorer Mario Kempes was credited with having a "pleasant attitude" only because "he didn't go around kicking people like [team-mates] Luque, Gallego or the ruthless Passarella".

While Glanville agreed with the decision to name Kempes as the player of the tournament, Eric Batty called it a "sick joke". He argued: "By my standards Kempes cannot play. He is only an individual who plays his own game and gets goals, but cannot play with his team-mates. [Osvaldo] Ardiles is already three times the player Kempes will ever be."

Tottenham were hoping so. Ardiles' move to North London, along with Argentina team-mate Ricardo Villa, was detailed elsewhere in the issue. Radnedge questioned whether the pair could "overcome the language barrier", while predicting "they would bring in big crowds wherever they play".

Leslie Vernon was appalled at the level of violent play during the Argentina finals, saying: "The '78 World Cup put an official stamp on an era when football has degenerated into all-out war." Glanville felt the referees should take a large part of the blame for not taking control. "Things had better be better in Spain," he concluded.



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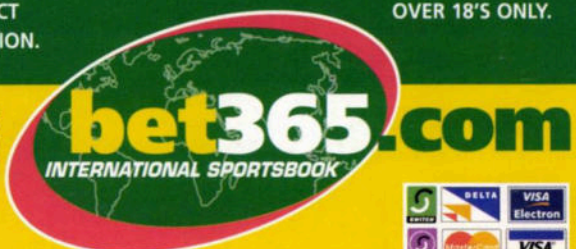

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